

Major warns MPs on 10% inflation

Treasury says poll tax hits budget surplus

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND RODNEY LORD

JOHN Major warned Conservative MPs last night that inflation was likely to rise above ten per cent before it would begin to fall.

Meanwhile, official figures revealed that non-payment of the community charge, coupled with higher public spending, is putting the government's budget surplus at risk and threatening to narrow the scope for tax cuts before the next election.

In a stark message to the Tory backbench finance committee, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that inflation, currently at 9.8 per cent, was "now near its peak but possibly not at it". He told the committee that it was taking longer to bring down than the Treasury had expected and there was no prospect of an early cut in interest rates in spite of the recent strength of the pound.

The public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) in the first three months of the current financial year was £6.5 billion, compared with a predicted £7 billion surplus for the year as a whole. Although the government's finances fluctuate widely from month to month the Treasury conceded that the figures were "disappointing". City economists now think the budget surplus will be well below the £7 billion forecast and it could disappear altogether.

Mr Major's speech to MPs is an indication that the timing of the next election is slipping inexorably away from next summer and is not now

likely until autumn 1991 at the earliest. Conservative strategists are convinced that the party needs to regain its lead in the opinion polls and maintain the position for three or four months before an election campaign, if it is to be sure of success. They believe that the key factors affecting the polls are interest and mortgage rates.

In view of the prognostications Mr Major was offering backbenchers last night, there seems little hope of the economy improving sufficiently to provide the required advance in opinion polls before the middle of next year. Although Mr Major insisted that there was firm evidence from retail sales, money figures, car purchases and the housing market that the government's policy to slow down demand was working, he said there was no likelihood of interest rates falling yet. He told MPs that he had to be sure that domestic monetary conditions were right before he made cuts; the last thing he wanted was a reduction which would have to be reversed later.

Although the chancellor's personal popularity remains high among Conservative MPs, many of whom bunched their desks in approval at the end of the meeting, his catalogue of gloom was considerable. He told them that the public spending round, which began with tomorrow's cabinet meeting to determine the global sum for next year's spending, was the most difficult since 1981. There was no "pot of gold" available, he said, as yesterday's public sector borrowing requirement figures had made plain.

In recent years inflation had been falling and growth rising. He told his colleagues that this year the picture was the reverse, with "implications for inflation and taxation". Those cryptic words left scope for interpretation. At worst, MPs concluded, they implied an increase in taxation in next year's budget; at best, they meant no further progress next year towards the government's target of a 20p in the pound standard rate.

Mr Major will tell the cabinet that the uncertainties over public spending and borrowing make it all the more important to limit increases in planned spending for next year. The rising PSBR highlights the widely varying accounts in Whitehall of the effect of introducing the poll tax. In the first three months of the financial year, local authorities borrowed £2.1 bil-

lion, compared with a net surplus of £700 million in the same three months of the previous year.

According to the Treasury the £2.8 billion reversal was due largely to the effect of delays in collecting the poll tax, reflecting late issue of bills, delays caused by capping of authorities and non-payment. However, the environment department said yesterday that although it had no direct evidence, surveys suggested that 75 to 80 per cent of poll tax was being paid on time.

In the City the high borrowing figures were viewed with concern and gilt-edged prices fell by nearly £1. Share prices, however, shrugged off the news, leaving the FTSE 100 index up 8.5 at 2415.

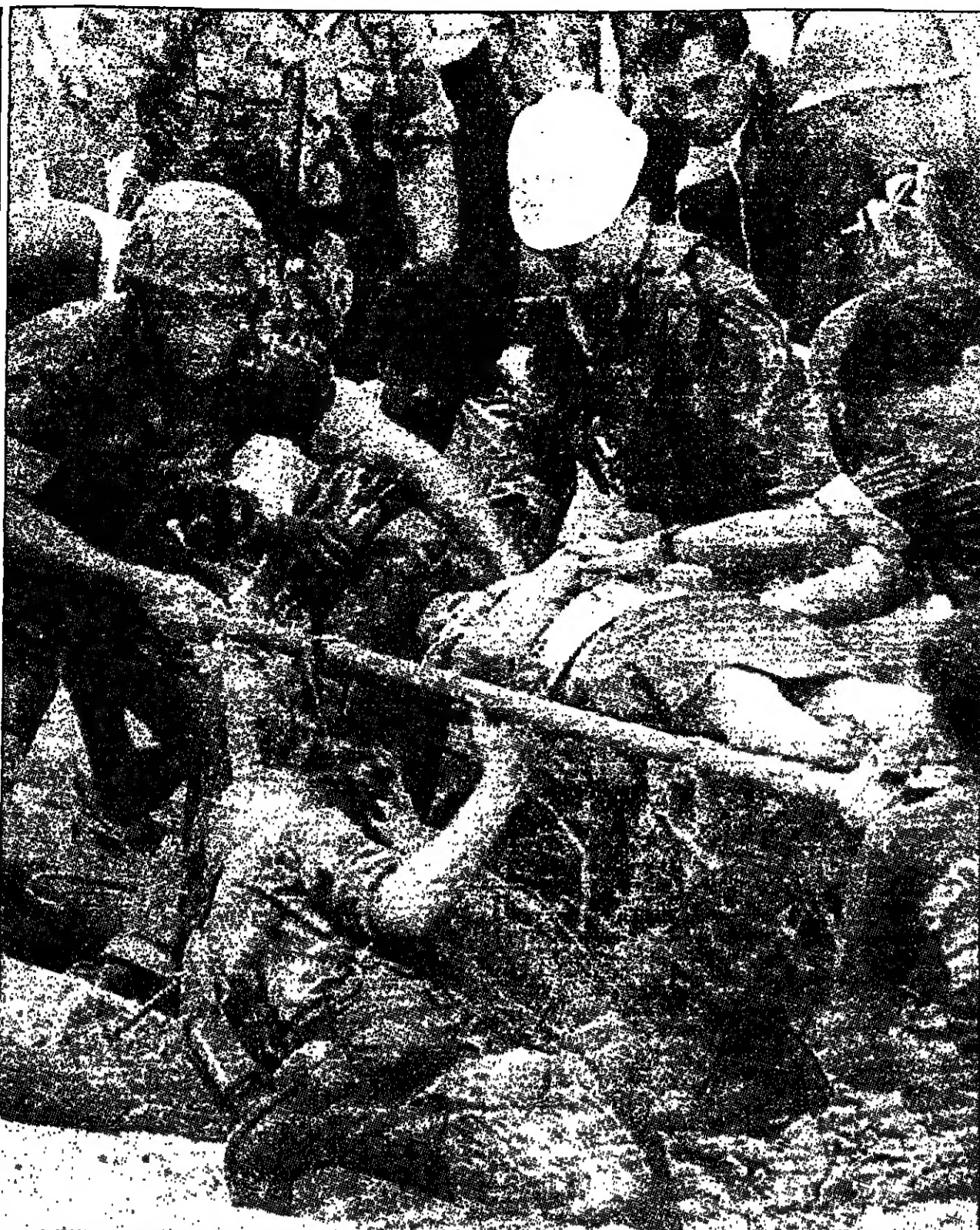
The PSBR last month was more than £1.5 billion higher than expected at £2.6 billion. It was the third month of high borrowing in a row, bringing the total for the first three months to £6.5 billion, compared with nil in the same period last year. The Treasury said there were three reasons for the difference: changes in the local government finance system had affected the profile of borrowing through the year; central government grants were being paid to local authorities earlier under the new system; and the distribution of the business rate may also have altered the figures.

In addition to the late payment of poll tax, spending by some departments, particularly defence, is running ahead of budgets. The defence ministry has already taken action to claw back some of the overspending by, for instance, reducing its purchase of Tornado aircraft, and other departments may be expected to make similar savings.

On the local authority spending, the environment department speculated that the new statutory right to pay the poll tax in instalments might have delayed money coming in. Previously the offer of instalments was up to the discretion of individual authorities. The £2.8 billion turn-around in local government finances compares with £13 billion of poll tax income due to be paid this year.

Mr Major further burnished his pro-European credentials with a firm declaration at the Conservative meeting that it was "better to be in Europe leading it, than outside it or simply following the rest".

Capping ruling, page 5
City comment, page 25



Rescue battle: a student is lifted to safety by American Marines after the earthquake that devastated her college in Cabanatuan in the northern Philippines. The death toll nationally rose to more than 300. Report, page 10

Kaunda blames Bazoft death on Britain

By PETER VICTOR AND CHOLA CHIMBANO IN LUSAKA

PRESIDENT Kaunda of Zambia yesterday blamed the British government and press criticism of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq for the execution of Faraz Bazoft.

He made his attack at a ceremony in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, as Daphne Parish, the British nurse freed after his intervention four months into a 15-year jail term, was handed over to the British high commission. She is expected to arrive in London this morning, insisting she was innocent of spying charges which led to her imprisonment.

President Kaunda said he had appealed for clemency for Bazoft also, but British attacks on President Saddam made it impossible for him to rescind the death sentence on the Iranian *Observer* reporter. He said: "I have no doubt in my mind that if it had not been for that vicious attack on him and on Iraq by the British authorities and press, that man might have lived, might have been here with Daphne."

Dr Kaunda, who first made contact with President Saddam in a confidential letter on March 11, 1990, said the release of Mrs Parish, who arrived in Zambia on Monday, did not indicate her innocence in the matter.

He dismissed suggestions that Tiny Rowland, the London-based chairman of Loungh, had speeded Mrs Parish's release.

Describing President Saddam as his "brother" throughout his address, Dr Kaunda emphasized that he did not want to sour relations with Britain.

Peter Hinchcliffe, the British high commissioner to Zambia, thanked Presidents Kaunda and Saddam for the release of Mrs Parish, aged 53, but said that there was nothing London had done to warrant the death of Bazoft.

Mrs Parish steered clear of the controversy. She thanked Dr Kaunda for his help in securing her release. She also said she did not believe that Bazoft had done anything illegal.

She talked about the trip she made with Bazoft to an Iraqi military complex where an explosion had taken place. Mrs Parish said she drove Bazoft to the blast site on her day off and saw nothing wrong in doing that. "It didn't appear improper at the time. We didn't do anything I considered illegal."

Photograph, page 22

CPS to be monitored by national watchdog

By RICHARD FORD AND STEWART TENDLER

A NATIONAL inspectorate is to be set up to monitor the consistency and quality of decisions taken by lawyers in the Crown Prosecution Service concentrating particularly on cases which are dropped, the government announced yesterday.

Mandatory time limits may be set on stages of the prosecution process to stop time being wasted. The decision to oversee the work of the CPS comes as Sir Peter Imbert, Metropolitan police commissioner, today urges debate on whether police investigations should also be subject to outside scrutiny.

In an interview marking three years as commissioner he calls for discussion on whether English law should borrow the French system of examining magistrates to direct police cases. Cases such as the Guildford Four have raised issues over the way the police assemble evidence.

The formation of the CPS inspectorate was announced in the government's reply to a recent report on the service by the Commons select committee on home affairs. Its task will involve sampling decisions on cases and it will carry out regular checks of CPS areas.

Sir John Wheeler, chairman of the select committee, welcomed the response from the government as "very positive".

Imbert interview and CPS inspectorate, page 5
Leading article, page 13

Polish safeguard clears way to German unity

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THE "two plus four" talks removed the final obstacle to the reunification of Germany later this year during a day of intensive discussions in Paris yesterday.

Success was sealed when the second world war allies, East and West Germany and Poland reached an agreement that provides for the safeguarding of the German-Polish border after German reunification.

The accord provides for a timetable and ways to resolve the border issue, according to Roland Dumas, the French foreign affairs minister.

The American Secretary of State, James Baker, said it addressed the main Polish fear that a united Germany might delay signing a border treaty. "The Germans have made a

commitment to have a border treaty in the shortest possible time after unification," he told a news conference.

The Polish foreign minister, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, added: "I am very happy with the results we have obtained and I think that in the German-Polish problem both sides... are equally satisfied."

According to Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, "no major difficulties" are foreseen in the drafting process of the formal Polish-German agreement. "It looks now as if the two main problems, Nato and Poland, have been sorted out and that is very good news for all of us."

Sources at the conference, which was also attended by the foreign ministers of the two Germanies, played down

earlier reports of difficulties in persuading Warsaw to adopt a more flexible line on the border issue. As most observers see it, the way has now been cleared for an overall settlement on Germany to be achieved in time for "unified" elections to go ahead there early in December.

By then, it is now assumed in the light of "two plus four" progress, agreement will have been reached.

Kohl confident, page 9
Leading article, page 13

Kohl says Ridley has been punished enough

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HELMUT Kohl, the West German Chancellor, had reassuring words for Nicholas Ridley and the British yesterday when he compared the former trade secretary's anti-German outburst with his own facile comparing Mikhail Gorbachev to the Nazi propaganda chief, Josef Goebbels.

Herr Kohl said he had never believed that Mr Ridley's comments represented the views of the British government or people. "It did not cast a shadow over German-British relations at all," he told a news conference. "It was really a complete faux

pas, but as it was pretty silly, that was clear to everybody."

"You know, as we Germans do not always speak any more prudently, myself included - I need only remind you of the subject of Gorbachev - then I think one should not be too hard on him," he added.

Referring to Mr Ridley's interview with *The Spectator*, he said: "We did not take it in bad part at all. I think the man has been punished enough by losing his job and that is right."

Thatcher experts, page 2
Parliament, page 8

INSIDE

Gloom over Irish talks

Irish and British ministers held further discussions yesterday to try to break the deadlock on inter-party talks for Northern Ireland but failed to make substantial progress. Both sides said further progress had been made but acknowledged that what Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish foreign minister, described as a "log jam" still prevented them bringing the first phase of the process to a conclusion.

Mr Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary, said he still hoped to make a statement in the Commons before the end of this parliamentary session. Page 2

Acts of God

Insurance rules which prevent accident victims being awarded compensation where the cause is deemed to be an "act of God" are to be challenged. Page 3

Schools' failure

Schools in Hackney, east London, are failing many of their children, a report says. Teachers do not support each other, are poorly dressed and unpunctual. Page 7

Buthlezi's call

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said in London yesterday that Britain should exert its continuing influence to bring about a Westminster-style democracy in South Africa. Page 11

BA ownership

British Airways is now 40 per cent owned by foreign investors, raising fears over its future standing as a British airline. Plans are being drawn up whereby some could be forced to disinvest if necessary. Page 25

Exam results

Degrees from Warwick University are published today. Page 37

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Kinnock finds common ground with Bush

From PHILIP WEBSTER IN WASHINGTON

NEIL Kinnock yesterday met President Bush in the White House and claimed to have a common agenda with the American government on key policies. He also spoke of the big differences in the way he had been received in Washington compared with 1987.

Mr Kinnock's talks with Mr Bush, covering East-West relations, the future of the European Community and the unification of Germany, was effectively completing his transformation of the Labour party since the 1987 election.

The Labour leader, whose defence policy had been re-

buffed by Ronald Reagan and the White House shortly before the last election, yesterday emerged from a 40-minute meeting with Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, stating that no differences at all had been voiced with Labour's new defence policy. Since 1987, it has abandoned outright unilateralism for a policy of negotiated nuclear disarmament.

Mr Kinnock, accompanied by Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said on the steps of the Pentagon that no difficulties had been anticipated.

The VAT man eats humble pie at 29,000ft

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE imminent arrival of in-flight food as the aircraft levels at 29,000ft tends to spoil the promise of the businessman's first gin and tonic, but in future he may relish the deposit of a plastic tray on his lap by a smiling air hostess.

The food will represent a notable £1.25 million victory over his traditional enemy, the VAT man, on the grounds that flying and catering are inseparable. HM Customs and Excise endured one of its rare defeats yesterday when it lost a legal fracas against British Airways to make the world's favourite airline pay value-added tax on its catering during internal United Kingdom flights.

The unappetising met the incredulous when the Court of Appeal considered absurd the case to impose tax for food on the airline, the cost of which would have been passed on to the passenger. Initially

the London VAT Tribunal had ruled that VAT should be paid on in-flight catering on internal flights. But two years ago, in a High Court ruling with implications for all airlines running domestic flights, Mr Justice Otton overturned that decision.

Yesterday the Court of Appeal upheld his findings and rejected an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise. Lord Justice Parker said the effects of the VAT men's claim succeeded would be "absurd", an absurdity which would be increased by the spectre of business passengers demanding tax invoices in respect of every drink, cup of coffee or meal they received as part of their in-flight services, he added.

The case hinged on whether catering supplied in-flight was to be regarded as separate to the air transport itself. Lord Justice Parker, sitting with the Master of

the Rolls, Lord Donaldson of Lynton, and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, decided that the catering and air transport were so closely linked they could not be regarded as separate.

Lord Donaldson said that unlike catering on trains, where passengers paid for their travel and then paid extra if they wanted refreshment, the payment for air transport related to the grade of transport and not to separate grades of catering. Lord Justice Parker said in-flight catering was as much a part of the transport as other things BA provided for the comfort and convenience of its passengers such as sweets before take-off, blankets and extra cushions.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused to the crestfallen plaintiffs who said later: "Sometimes we put these things up just to get a ruling." British Airways declared itself very pleased.

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North-south suspicions will dominate Ulster talks' progress

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE government's initiative on Northern Ireland envisages a "three tiered structure of talks" between two sovereign states and four political groupings.

The complex formula involves negotiations between the constitutional parties inside Northern Ireland, between the two governments and between Northern Ireland politicians and the Irish government.

Those who designed it believe it offers the best chance of broaching a solution to the problem of Northern Ireland which will command cross community support inside the province, and that of both interested governments.

Among its key strengths are that it addresses all the groups in the quarrel except those who have resorted to violence to achieve their political ambitions. The initiative cannot proceed at any stage if one contributor decides to stall or drop out.

Ultimately it envisages creation of a devolved administration in Belfast which

would initially have limited powers but which, it is hoped, would gradually assert itself and begin to wrest from Westminster many of the powers dispensed under direct rule. Alongside that administration would be a new Anglo-Irish agreement, reflecting the new political realities embodied by the settlement inside Northern Ireland.

Over the past month, the first serious threat to the initiative and the emergence of its weakest link have become apparent. The crisis over the precise timing and nature of Dublin's "interaction" with political leaders in Northern Ireland has stalled progress and, more worryingly, suggested that it may have the potential, in the long run if not immediately, to destroy the project.

Through a propitious combination of a general sense of goodwill, a new face at Stormont and the conclusion by unionist leaders that the era of street protest against the Anglo-Irish agreement has gone forever, party leaders have had little difficulty in embracing the prospect of talks inside Northern Ireland, even if they remain

deeply cynical about the chances for agreement on issues like power sharing or devolution.

Anglo-Irish talks between the two governments present no problem. They are almost continuous at official level and are regularly convened at ministerial level. The north-south dimension, however, has produced a classic contemporary reworking of the issue at the heart of the trouble. The Irish government and the Unionists have agreed in principle that they will talk to each other but their intentions and aims in doing so are in direct contradiction.

Dublin as a co-signatory to the Anglo-Irish agreement wants to play a full role in any negotiating process which replaces that agreement. It is sceptical about the chances for the initiative, but appears to have concluded that by participating it will have an opportunity to consolidate its gains under the present treaty. The Unionists are determined to use the process to restrict or even shut out Dublin from Northern Ireland and create a new agreement which reduces rather than expands the Irish

government's say in the province's affairs. In Dublin, Unionist intransigence over the timing of its intervention is taken as evidence that while the two Unionist leaders, James Moynihan and Ian Paisley, claim to have accepted the principle of a north-south dimension, they still cannot stomach it in reality.

In Northern Ireland, hardline Unionists and the considerable number of sceptics in that community interpret the dispute as the bitter fruit of the seed sown by the two governments in 1985 when they signed the Hillsborough Treaty allowing, in their view, Dublin to have its first foothold in Ulster on the path to a united Ireland.

This contradiction, an historical imperative in Irish politics, will continuously threaten the initiative. The management of it by Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, his ability to play off Irish ambitions in the area of power-sharing and possibly an institutionalised north-south forum against Unionist fears, will be decisive in determining the eventual outcome. If a formula is found to solve the

present difficulties, it is likely to arise in different forms over the months ahead. There is likely to be further drama over the practical arrangements for north-south contacts, over the location, the agenda and the composition of delegations. It is possible too that the first north-south meeting will have an explosive impact on talks in train between the parties in Belfast.

Unionists can also be expected to display the increasing insecurity of politicians who will feel that the Dublin dimension is coming at them from all sides; from Social Democratic and Labour Party politicians, through Mr Brooke, and through Irish ministers.

Already the "Brooke initiative", though presently in serious difficulty, has progressed further than expected through a readiness on all sides to soften positions and to accept compromise formulae — the best example being the settlement on the Anglo-Irish secretariat at Maryfield. More of the same will be required if Mr Brooke is to overcome the north-south obstacles that lie ahead.

Pit union may sue IMO for Soviet donations

By DAVID YOUNG

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) is expected to approve the appointment of an international legal consultant at its executive meeting tomorrow which could result in the union suing an organisation led by its own president, Arthur Scargill.

A four man delegation from the NUM has asked Gavin Lightman, QC, the barrister who conducted an official enquiry into allegations of financial irregularities at the union during the 1984-85 miners' strike, to advise on how the union can win access to bank accounts held by the Paris-based International Miners' Organisation (IMO).

Mr Scargill is president of the NUM and the IMO, an organisation he helped form, but he has said that the NUM should have no access to the IMO accounts. Mr Scargill has said that money in the accounts was given to the IMO for international use and that cash raised by miners in the Soviet Union to aid British miners was spent on such aid.

Many in the union believe that up to £1.8 million is held in IMO accounts in Vienna and Dublin and that the money was donated by miners in the Soviet Union to provide aid to British colleagues during the strike.

The delegation, made up of Henry Richardson of Nottinghamshire, George Rees of South Wales, Gordon Butler from Derbyshire and Idwal Morgan of the Cokemans branch, will report tomorrow to the full executive.

The union may have to take action in Paris courts to win access to the IMO accounts. The executive is expected to adopt the critical report on the union's financial affairs prepared by Mr Lightman.

Issues raised in the report, such as the provision of loans to Mr Scargill and other union officials for house purchase and house renovation during the strike, are causing concern among other trade unionists and the TUC is expected to order its own investigation.

The government-appointed certification officer, the independent watchdog for union affairs, has already intervened in the dispute. Matthew Wake, the certification officer, is looking at a possible breach of the 1974 Trade Union and Labour Relations Act in the way the union set up bank accounts to collect money during the strike.

Big rise in female lung cancer

LUNG cancer largely due to smoking is increasing among women, according to official statistics published yesterday (Thomson Prentice writes).

The disease became almost 30 per cent more prevalent among females between the mid-1970s and 1985. In some areas it has overtaken breast tumours as the most common cancer in women.

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys said that in 1985 lung cancer affected 10 per cent of all women registered as cancer sufferers. More than 90 per cent of lung cancers are known to be caused by smoking. The disease causes about 10,000 deaths a year among women.

Libel damages

Lord Rothermere accepted undisclosed libel damages from publishers Hamish Hamilton Ltd in the High Court yesterday over suggestions that he was too aristocratic to get on with Lord Matthews, the former Daily Express chief executive, who was once a Brixton bricklayer.

Prison changes

Prisons for young offenders at Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, Morpeth, in Northumberland, and Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire, are to be redesignated as adult jails in an attempt to reduce prison overcrowding.

Decision due

The Court of Appeal is due to rule tomorrow on an application by Lord Aldington for an order requiring Count Nikolai Tolstoy to put up £188,000 security for costs before he appeals against the £1.5 million damages awarded to Lord Aldington over a pamphlet branding him a war criminal.

Space monacle

British astronomers are designing a "monacle" for the Hubble space telescope to cure problems in focusing on distant stars and the edges of the universe.

Buying The Times overseas: Australia \$12.50; Canada \$12.50; Europe £10.00; India \$12.50; Japan ¥1,000; New Zealand \$12.50; Pakistan \$12.50; Singapore \$12.50; South Africa \$12.50; Switzerland \$12.50; USA \$12.50; West Germany \$12.50; Yugoslavia \$12.50.

Pay warning for managers over health waiting lists

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH Service managers will be financially penalised if they fail to reduce unacceptable hospital waiting times within the next 12 months. Mr Duncan Nichol, NHS chief executive, said yesterday.

His comments at a Department of Health conference attended by 500 NHS managers came as Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, revealed that although large parts of the community care reforms are to be postponed, the plan to allocate a specific grant for mentally ill people would still go ahead next April. Further details are expected to be announced today by Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, in a Commons statement.

Mr Nichol said 220,000 patients were now waiting over a year for hospital treatment and 86,000 over two years. "This is simply not acceptable and the Management Executive's key task for managers is to reduce waiting times," he said. He made it

clear that neither the government nor patients would accept excuses from managers who fail to cut their waiting times or those who insisted that times would increase because of the need to reduce services to balance their books.

Failure or successes in cutting times would be reflected in managers' performance-related pay, Mr Nichol said. At present managers can earn between £20-£52,000 basic pay to which a further 20 per cent can be added over five years in performance-related pay.

Under the Health Service reforms districts will be able to specify maximum waiting times in the new contracts they draw up with hospitals. Mr Nichol gave examples of some NHS Trust applications where rigorous standards had already been stipulated. One hospital claimed it would treat all urgent cases within two weeks and all priority cases within three weeks. No patient would be kept waiting for any treatment for more than 12 months, according to the application. The drive to tackle waiting times would not be discretionary said Mr Nichol. "I want to see a substantial reduction in the lengthy waiting times within a year. We are saying get a grip on waiting lists. It can be done."

BMA starts anti-reform campaign

THE British Medical Association yesterday launched its summer offensive against National Health Service reforms (Jill Sherman writes).

Doctors in Brighton, Barnstaple and Leeds gave details of local campaigns to fight applications for NHS Trust status. Campaign T-shirts bear the new slogan: "People lose out if our hospital opts out."

Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, said: "I don't expect this year's offensive to be as offensive as the last one."

Debt rises by £2.6bn as councils raid their reserves

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL authority treasurers were last night trying to explain how they had added £2.6 billion to public sector debt last month without actually borrowing more than a fraction of that sum on the money markets.

Local authority leaders who demanded to know why they were being blamed by the government for upsetting its economic strategy were told that only a few million pounds had actually been raised on the open market by councils.

Most of the local authority borrowing figure in yesterday's Treasury statement was made up of withdrawals from council coffers. Because local authorities lose interest when they draw on their reserves, the Treasury regards it as new borrowing.

Reserves have been raided to cover a cash flow crisis caused by the fact that poll tax and business rate payments have come in more slowly than income under the old rating system. Treasurers rejected suggestions that an anti-poll tax revolt was to blame for the shortfall, preferring the more prosaic explanation that individuals and businesses alike were now all entitled to pay by ten monthly instalments. Under the old rating system only individuals with bank accounts could pay in this way, and most businesses had to pay in full on April 1.

Even though some councillors clearly had difficulty grasping the distinction between borrowing and taking money from reserves, the explanation offered by the local authorities on this point was immediately accepted by the Treasury. A spokesman said, however: "The fact is that this does represent a significant shortfall in community charge income. There is no getting round that."

Although the Treasury made no allegations about the slow collection of the poll tax, the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation was quick to claim that a popular revolt against the poll tax lay behind the increased borrowing figures.

Sieve Nally, secretary of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, said last night that local authorities in England and Wales had been forced to borrow £2.6 billion in April to make up the shortfall in their collection of community charges. He said his figure had been provided by the office of Dave Nellist, Labour MP for Coventry South East.

"Our campaign has succeeded. There has been mass non-payment. A lot of local authorities have been forced to borrow far more than they would have expected to at this time of the year. Millions of people cannot afford to pay and the government is facing real problems on this."

His assertion contrasts sharply with surveys of poll tax payment rates undertaken in recent weeks, including studies by the environment department, the Conservative controlled Association of District Councils (ADC), and The Times. All found that more than three-quarters of adults in England were paying the poll tax and that borrowing was at a comparatively low level.

Martin Pilgrim, financial secretary to the Labour controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the current cash flow problems were almost entirely due to the ten-monthly payment system. His view was supported by the environment department, which said that it expected the level of local authority borrowing to fall back as the money flowed in.

Roy Thomson, chairman of the ADC, said that, far from deserving criticism, local authorities should be praised by the Treasury for having successfully introduced a major change in the financing of local government.



Police stun crew in £6m drugs seizure

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

Eleven men were being questioned by Customs investigators last night after police used a stun grenade to subjugate the armed crew of a cabin cruiser smuggling a multi-million pound cargo of amphetamine sulphate into Britain from The Netherlands.

Sixty kilograms (27lb) of the drug, worth between £6 million and £10 million, was seized at the end of a nine-month investigation. The seizure is the largest amount of the drug, which is thought to be the second largest illicit drug of abuse after cannabis, found in Britain; it is three times greater than the entire seizure of amphetamines made by Customs last year. A second large consignment is reported to have been seized by Dutch investigators.

The stun grenade, similar to those used by the SAS to end the siege at the Iranian embassy in London ten years ago, was thrown as armed police and Customs officers closed in on the motor cruiser Merulius. The vessel was moored at a boat club near Kingsferry Bridge, at Sheerness, Kent, after having sailed from

Viessengen, in The Netherlands, on Friday.

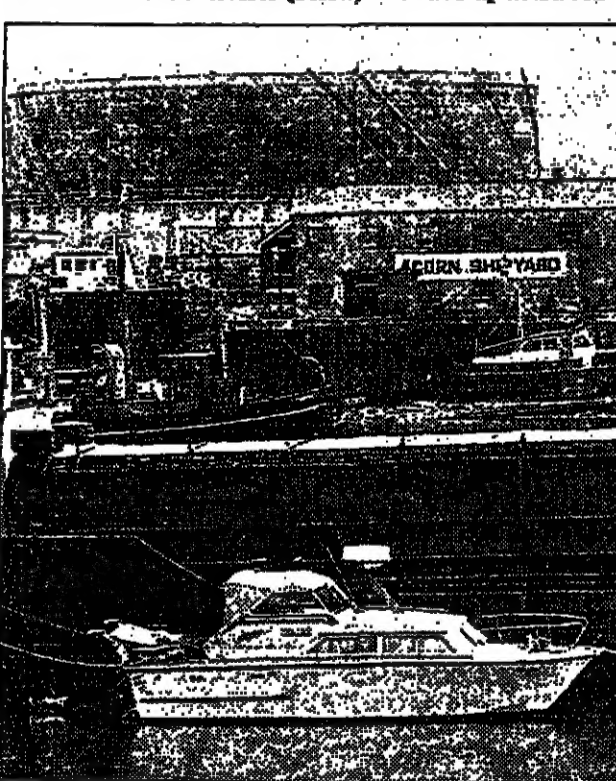
Five men were arrested at the mooring and six more in London in a case code-named Operation Tributary. British Customs officers worked with their Dutch and French counterparts during investigations, which have intensified over the past three months.

A trio of Customs cutters shadowed the cruiser as it sailed last Friday. At one stage the cruiser ran out of fuel in a river estuary and had to be refuelled from a sandbank by its crew.

A team of more than 50 police and Customs officers began moving into place at Sheerness over the weekend. They watched as the cruiser arrived and drugs were unloaded into a van. The reception party could see weapons, and the decision was taken to throw the stun grenade to prevent any reaction as the investigators closed in.

But after the grenade flashed into the night sky the crew hesitated for some time before agreeing to give themselves up. Police urged them to surrender, promising that

Police divers searching the mud at Sheerness, Kent, after a raid on a cabin cruiser (below) later tied up at Strood



they would not be harmed. Mick Frome, owner of a local snack bar, watched the raid near midnight on Monday as the crew unpacked the drugs into a van.

"There was a helicopter hovering above with its searchlight scanning the area,"

he said. "I heard the police with a loud-bailer saying, 'Put down your weapons — you are surrounded by armed police'."

"He must have said that 20 times over a period of about half an hour. The men obviously didn't surrender straight away," he said.

Experts for every eventuality

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher reaches for professors and think tanks as other people might pluck dictionaries from their shelves. Presented with a problem or intrigued by an idea, her reaction is to ask associates: "Do you know a good academic on that?" It is one reason why the problem of her period in government has been more a surfeit of ideas than a lack of them.

The summoning of a cluster of professors and commentators to the Chequers session on Germany which forced her on the defensive in the Commons yesterday was entirely consistent with her style as prime minister. She wished to be well prepared for the then forthcoming Knights-winter conference and meeting with Chancellor Kohl.

She likes to obtain briefings outside the civil service machine and she relishes advice from those free from party or government constraints. That is one reason why she called in Professor Sir Alan Walters as an alternative channel of advice on economics and why she set up the Number Ten policy unit currently headed by Professor Brian Griffiths and usually including a range of skills and experience such as management consultants, lawyers and industrialists as well as pure academics.

She makes vigorous use too

of the leading right wing think tanks whose main personnel sit in and out of party positions and Number Ten. A key figure in that world is David Willetts, director of studies at the Centre for Policy Studies, an organisation set up in 1974 by Sir Keith Joseph with a certain Margaret Thatcher as the first vice-chairman.

Typically in the world of Thatcher advisers, David Willetts, one of her morning briefers at the last election, had worked in the Treasury as private secretary to Nicholas Ridley and Nigel Lawson and was later sought as director of the Conservative Research Department. Robin Harris, who was an adviser in the Home Office and at the Tre-

sury, did become director of research at Central Office before joining the policy unit at Number Ten. Others whose ideas tend to get through to the Prime Minister's in-tray include Graham Mather, who once headed the policy unit at the Institute of Directors and who now directs the Institute of Economic Affairs.

The German seminar was not a one-off affair, although such sessions are rare on foreign policy issues. Mrs Thatcher likes to get the flavour of an issue by tackling the issues with those directly concerned in the field. Thus when the Broadcasting Bill was in preparation she had in programme-makers and industry chiefs to Number Ten. When her interest was caught

by the film industry, she summoned the likes of Sir Richard Attenborough, Lord Brabourne and David Puttnam. Perhaps the nearest equivalent to the German seminar was a Chequers weekend on the problems of church and state to which a number of bishops and church thinkers were invited.

One Downing Street insider said: "She has a taste for proper research which dates back to her training as a scientist." It is on scientific issues that she employs the seminar technique most enthusiastically.

She likes to keep in contact with scientific minds by chairing meetings of the advisory committee on science and technology and she said on a special seminar at Number Ten in April of last year attended by ministers and leading scientists including Martin Holgate, the former chief scientific officer who is now chairman of the international Union for the Conservation of Nature. It was not a decision-making meeting, she told her colleagues as they arrived but a meeting designed to establish the facts as a basis for future policy-making.



Willetts: has the ear of the prime minister



Walters: an alternative channel of advice

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هكزامن الازهر

MARK ASPLAND

Child offence arrest alerts murder hunt detectives

By PETER DAVENPORT

DETECTIVES investigating the unsolved murders of three young girls over the past eight years were yesterday checking the movements of a man arrested in connection with another offence involving a child.

The man was being held in Saughton prison, Edinburgh, last night following his arrest at the weekend. Similarities between the latest incident involving a young girl and the earlier murders caused detectives working on the unsolved enquiries to be alerted.

Hector Clark, deputy chief constable of Lothian and Borders police, is in overall charge of the triple enquiries hoping to establish common links between the murders of Susan Maxwell, aged 11, Caroline Hogg, aged five and Sarah Harper, aged 10.

A police spokesman said yesterday: "A man arrested in connection with a separate offence is now the subject of enquiries in connection with the three unsolved child murders." Detectives are checking the man's movements on the dates the three girls disappeared before questioning him in detail about the murders.

Detective Superintendent John Stainthorpe, of West Yorkshire police, who controls the day-to-day investigation into the death of Sarah Harper, said yesterday he would be travelling to Edinburgh to question the man. "I have been in touch with the Scottish police on a number of occasions about this particular enquiry, and certainly we will be looking at this man very closely. It looks interesting and we will be checking him out thoroughly."

The deaths of the three girls led to the largest ever computerised murder hunt in this country, with a special child murder bureau established at Bradford police station to

collate information from six forces onto a common computer base.

The work took 18 months and, at its height, involved 38 officers and 24 civilian typists operating 50 computer screens inputting the details of 185,651 people who had figured in the investigations, 53,024 actions initiated as a result and every word of 57,470 statements. West Yorkshire was chosen as the location for the bureau because of its computer skills and because it was investigating the latest murder.

Since it was criticised in the aftermath of the Yorkshire Ripper enquiry for its laborious manual techniques, the force has become skilled at the use of modern technology.

It is understood the name of the man being held in Edinburgh does not appear in the computer files.

The murder victims were: Susan Maxwell, aged 11, abducted near Coldstream in the Borders on Friday July 30 1982, whose body was found the following month in a copse off a lay-by near Uttoxeter, Staffordshire; Caroline Hogg, aged five, of Portobello, Edinburgh, abducted on Friday July 8 1983, whose body was found off a lay-by near Twycross, Leicestershire, 10 days later; Sarah Harper, aged 10, abducted from near her home at Morley, Leeds, on Wednesday March 26 1986, whose body was found in the Trent at Wilford, Nottinghamshire, the next month.

Even now police are unable to say for certain whether the deaths are the work of a single killer or different murderers. After such a time lapse, many senior officers had been taking the view that their best chance of solving the three cases would be the capture of the offender during the commission of another crime.



Murdered schoolgirls: Caroline Hogg, aged five; Susan Maxwell, aged 11; Sarah Harper, aged 10.

Insurance policies' act of God exclusion challenged

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE insurance industry's rules which prevent accident victims being awarded compensation where the cause is deemed to be an act of God are to be challenged before the European Commission of Human Rights.

A test case is to be brought before the commission by Justice, the all-party law reform group, involving a man aged 21, who was paralysed from the chest down after a tree fell on his van windshield and he hit a lamp post in storms last December.

Mark Chapman, who ran deliveries for a pet shop in Barking, is in Stoke Mandeville hospital and his family does not have the necessary money to convert their home to cope with his disability.

Peter Ashman, legal officer of Justice, said: "Although his employers had full car insurance and employer's liability insurance, he is not covered because this was said to be an act of God."

The Chapman accident is the second of its kind recently raised with Justice and which has prompted the group to take up the issue with the European Commission as a

potential breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. At the same time as bringing the test case, the group of lawyers and judges is calling for a no-fault compensation scheme in road traffic cases as recommended by the Pearson Commission in its report in 1974 on personal injuries.

The other case handled by Justice last year involved a middle aged couple, the Sandles, who were walking in Clacton in September 1989 when a driver had a heart attack, died at the steering wheel of his car and hit them. They were both in hospital for several weeks.

Mr Sandles had to give up work as a ship's cook. They were told that the accident was an act of God and that they could not sue the driver's estate, but the insurers eventually settled.

Mr Ashman said: "We made it known that we would bring a test case under the convention to challenge the adequacy of existing statutory insurance provisions." As a result, he said, the Association of British Insurers asked its member to reconsider the

claim and settle. Mr Ashman said these two cases were the tip of the iceberg. There were many traffic accidents where people were injured but could not win any compensation because they could not prove negligence against any one person. "There was a recent case of two women who were walking by a road at night and a car hit them and one of them was killed. The driver said he did not see them. They were unable to sue."

Some 20 per cent of victims of traffic accidents are estimated not to receive compensation and could all benefit under a no fault scheme. Funding of a scheme could be by a levy on petrol or on insurance premiums. Mr Ashman said: "It would not be expensive to run, when you have taken out all the costs which currently go on litigation."

There were fears that comprehensive insurance would benefit drunk or negligent drivers. "Under other no fault schemes, there is the concept of contributory negligence so that a driver who is responsible through drunkenness or negligence will lose some if not all of the award."

stable of Greater Manchester, announced in March last year that the Home Office was to conduct a review of the swab cases.

The swabs were impregnated with ethanol, identical with alcohol and used as an antiseptic to cleanse the skin and the needles used for taking blood. They were in use over a two-year period before their true nature was identified by analysts at the Home Office forensic science laboratory, Euxton, Lancashire.

Mr Carus said 777 drivers, all in the "borderline category", were affected by the tests. They had been found to be just over the test legal limit of 35 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath and exercised their right to have their guilt or innocence proved by blood tests.

Miss Scally gave blood samples which revealed that she was nine milligrams over the 80 milligram prescribed alcohol limit. Mr Carus said the drivers were seeking to have their convictions quashed in judicial review proceedings because they could not appeal to the crown court because their guilty pleas had been unequivocal.

The other three drivers involved are John Meredith, of Astley Bridge, Bolton, fined 12 months by Eccles magistrates in October 1987; George Greenfield, of Bolton, fined £200 and banned for 12 months by Bolton magistrates in August 1988; and Frederick Durran-Jorda, of Altrincham, Greater Manchester, fined £150 and banned 12 months by Trafford magistrates in December 1988.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

Cell visits urged for judges

ALL crown court judges should spend up to three days a year visiting prisoners in their cells, the Howard League says today in its response to the government's green paper, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public* (Frances Gibb writes).

Frances Crook, the league's director, said: "Instead of just standing there with their wigs on, judges should go and see for themselves. We do not want to be prescriptive and force them to spend the night there, but it would be the best way for people in their position to see how awful our prisons are."

Judge Pickles said he would be happy to spend the night in solitary confinement.

Cornwall loses its native language GCSE

By ALAN HAMILTON

NATIONALIST pride west of the Tamar has been dealt a blow by the unveiling of English. After next year it will no longer be possible for schoolchildren to sit for a GCSE in Cornish.

However, the examination in the ancient Celtic language has been cancelled from lack of interest. This year four pupils offered themselves for the paper and last year there were only two, leading the Guildford-based Southern Examining Group to announce its intention of abandoning it, along with certain other academic disciplines.

Only a few hundred Cornishmen speak the antique tongue fluently and about 2,000 more have a passing acquaintance with it, although numbers are said to be growing. The Cornish Language Board, a voluntary body which promotes the cause, declared itself saddened by the decision and said it had approached the Welsh Examining Group in the hope that it might take a more sympathetic view of arranging and setting a GCSE paper.

Wella Brown, the board's general secretary, whose name would be William were he to live anywhere else, said yesterday that his organisation would continue to offer its own examination in Cornish, for which there were about 60 entrants, mainly adults, this year. Ten primary and three secondary schools in Cornwall now teach the language, he said.

According to legend, the last native Cornish speaker was Dolly Pentreath, a Mousehole fishwife who died in 1777. The tongue was revived in the 1930s using its modest body of preserved literature, which includes several miracle plays and some long epic poetry. Pronunciation involves a certain amount of guesswork, the only guidance being words in the related languages of Welsh and Breton.

How the language should be spoken and written arouses passions. Linguists are sharply divided between native Cornish, unified Cornish and phonemic Cornish, and whether it should be spelt using a system devised in the 1930s or a modern updated version. Last year the language board was awarded £6,000, the first instalment of a three-year grant from the EC, to produce an up-to-date Cornish-English dictionary. Mr Brown remains hopeful that the exam decision will not silence the ancient tongue. "Kernowek a vyw," he said yesterday. Cornish will survive.

Leading article, page 13

Funding switch to regions worries arts companies

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ARTS companies are protesting at a switch from national to regional funding announced yesterday by Richard Luce, the arts minister.

Ten regional arts boards with increased financial autonomy will be created to replace the 12 existing associations under the minister's proposals. Groups denied central funding by the Arts Council fear that they will be regarded as less important.

John Willan, administrator of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, said: "Arts bodies moved from the central body to a new regional one are bound to think of themselves as second best."

The orchestra is at present funded by the Arts Council and is due to take residency at the South Bank arts centre. Under Mr Luce's proposals, outlined at the national conference of the Council of Regional Arts Associations, funding would be devolved to the newly constituted Greater London Arts Board. Mr

Willan said: "There are grave doubts that the board would be able to cope. We are in the process of finding a musical director for our residency, and if we're going to come under the local funding body that is bound to affect the kind of person we can attract."

The minister said that all regionally based arts organisations should be devolved to regional arts boards. The criteria should be "objective rather than dependent on assessment of quality or national and international standing". Once those criteria had been established, the clients to be retained by the Arts Council would identify themselves automatically, he said.

This year the Arts Council is giving £175 million to 160 bodies, rising to £190 million in 1992.

The Bristol Old Vic, England's first subsidised theatre, is anxious about the relationship between the new South West Arts Board and the local authorities. Mark

Everett, the executive director, said: "We want to know that we're going to get the same quality of service, that we'll still be able to get the overall advice on matters of funding we could get from the central Arts Council."

The Bristol Old Vic is getting £500,000 from the Arts Council and £290,000 from Avon and Bristol local authorities this year. "We want to be talked about still in terms of British theatre, not as the best theatre in Bristol, Avon, or even the southwest. The present arts association does not enjoy the partnership with local authorities other associations do," he said.

The Royal Opera House, the Royal National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the South Bank Centre and the English National Opera are expected to remain as direct clients of the Arts Council, with about 20 others including touring companies such as Opera North and the biggest ballet companies.

Gang jailed after police ambush

THREE professional robbers who were ambushed by armed police as they launched a raid on the home of one of the richest men in the world were jailed by the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The three men, including a former British soldier, aimed to escape with valuables worth thousands of pounds from the Surrey home of Sheikh Hamdan al-Maktoum, a leading race horse owner.

The police, acting on a tip-off, surrounded Windlesham House, near Sunningdale, and arrested the gang as they marched up the driveway wearing masks and carrying handcuffs and tape. David

Stewart, aged 24, and Barrington Lee, aged 23, were each jailed for 10 years. Geoffrey White, aged 27, who served for six years with the Royal Engineers, was jailed for nine years.

Stewart, of Argyle Road, Tottenham, north London, Lee, of Hood Avenue, Southgate, north London, and White of Luton, Bedfordshire, were found guilty of conspiracy to rob.

The judge, Mr Recorder Brian Higgs, QC, who described White as a thoroughly dangerous man, said: "Professional criminals like you must realise that if you go in for this kind of activity you

will receive heavy and condign sentences."

Stewart, the court was told, was on the run at the time of the attempted robbery. He is presently serving a nine year prison sentence for plotting to rob a post office van of £70,000.

Miss Joanna Korner, for the prosecution, said that as the raiders moved in on the house, police switched on powerful arc lights, catching the gang in the glare. The raiders tried to escape but White and Stewart bumped into each other and fell over.

The judge praised the police for arresting the gang without having to fire a shot.

Father wins order for child to stay in Israel

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

A DISTRICT court judge yesterday ordered that Lindsay Rhein, aged four, should remain in Israel until further hearings are held in her parents' fight for custody.

The order was issued by Yehoshua Hoummer, a Tel Aviv district court judge, at the request of Stewart Rhein, the American father of the child. In another Tel Aviv court Aryeh Siegelson, a district court judge, responded to Mr Rhein's appeal against his arrest. The judge ordered that the film producer be freed from jail and placed under house arrest until there was notification from Britain as to whether extradition would be sought.

Mr Rhein was arrested in Tel Aviv last week at the request of British police, who said he was suspected of kidnapping Lindsay in Lon-

don on June 24. Police reports said three men hired by Mr Rhein allegedly overwhelmed his estranged wife, Jill, with tear gas and abducted the child.

The couple have been fighting for custody of Lindsay since their separation in 1988. The girl is in the custody of social workers in Tel Aviv and her mother has been granted access.

The judge said the prosecution failed to prove its claim that Mr Rhein should be kept in custody "because he is violent, and could do bodily harm to the girl and her mother if he is freed". He also rejected the submission that keeping Mr Rhein in jail was the only way that Israel could ensure he would be extradited, if the Home Office made that request. Israel has an extradition treaty with Britain.

The order placing Mr Rhein under house arrest is not to be carried out for 48 hours, so that prosecutors have time to appeal. Mr Siegelson also ordered Mr Rhein, aged 50, to post bail of 50,000 shekels (£12,500) and to hand over his passport to police. The film producer has been banned from contacting his wife and daughter.

Mr Rhein has complained that Britain is being unfair to him. "The British are conducting a vendetta against me and my daughter. It has been a gross miscarriage of justice," he told reporters after yesterday's hearing.

Lindsay holds both American and British passports, as her mother is a British citizen. A British court gave Mrs Rhein temporary custody of the child in 1988, a decision Mr Rhein rejects.



Jill Rhein talking to a Scotland Yard officer after a Tel Aviv judge said her daughter must stay in Israel

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مكزامن الناصح

Imbert forecasts a national police network after a decade



Sir Peter: believes in benefits of local policing

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CREATION of a national police force for Britain will be under serious discussion within ten years and there will be some form of countrywide system early in the next century, according to Sir Peter Imbert, commissioner of the Metropolitan police.

After three years as the most powerful operational police officer in Britain, Sir Peter forecast the national force could come from the increasing pressures of growing crime closer to the rest of Europe in the 1990s. Those pressures should also bring a serious debate in Britain about the use of investigating magistrates to oversee police work.

Outside the criminal justice system there were also questions over standards of behaviour within the community. Children should be taught responsibility as well as rights, and citizenship should be on the school curriculum, he said.

Sir Peter speculated on policing in 2000 and the potential for national action. He said: "I think we will be looking at a national force. We are a small island. I think it is going to come and I think it is going to come for the good of the community generally." One of the driving forces will be pressure on the police for greater value for

money and effectiveness but questions of finance and accountability will have to be solved.

"We should not be afraid to examine alternatives to the present system. I have my own dilemma about this because I believe in local policing," Sir Peter said. "We should not be complacent and say this is the only system that will work but my one caveat is there must be local policing to respond to local needs." It might not suffer because the larger a police force the more autonomy local commanders can sometimes achieve as headquarters staff concentrate on general policy.

He did not want to see a sudden rush towards a national force propelled by a crisis. Last year he advocated creation of an anglicised FBI to cover national

serious crime. The idea has been turned into a restructuring of the existing regional crime squads. Sir Peter said he was hopeful this was a step towards his original concept.

He produced his FBI idea during a national lecture almost a year ago. Asked what he would talk about if the invitation had been repeated this year Sir Peter said: "Something has got to be stated about evidence and evidence gathering and the police approach to the criminal justice system."

It was time to examine the advantages and disadvantages of the French system of investigating magistrates, Sir Peter said he was not advocating the system but suggesting the debate. One reason was greater harmonisation of legal processes across Europe and a second lay in the criticism of the

police aroused by cases like the Guildford four.

An examining magistrate or advocate would look at the police case once charges had been brought and he or she could look at the case as it developed, urging police to take extra statements or follow up questioning.

Sir Peter said investigating magistrates could be as subjective about "hot suspects" as police were sometimes said to be in Britain. The commissioner said he felt it was right for police cases to be examined rigorously before going before a jury by an independent authority, but questioned whether an investigating magistrate could be called independent.

Sir Peter's period as commissioner has seen a growing debate nationwide about the nature of

policing and its improvement. He said an officer class, based on ex-military officers could be created but it would be the present system of fast promotion for high fliers by another name.

The introduction of an officer class would result in a drop of the high calibre of ordinary recruits, of which a third have at least three A levels, he said. If Sir Peter was dubious at the prospect of an officer class he accepted the idea of service contracts for senior officers. "We as senior officers have got no more right to lifetime appointments as anyone in industry. If the only sound to come from this office is the sound of my pen writing then it is time my contract came to an end," he said.

Much of the criticism of the police came from a society which

was more questioning than ever before. The police record of achievement was better than recognised with substantial increases in officers on the beat in the past few years. The number of cases cleared up last year in London was greater than the total number of crimes reported 30 years ago when Scotland Yard did not have to devote 1,000 officers to Special Branch, drug squads, protection duties and other specialist detective work.

Corruption had dropped and Sir Peter said: "I think the police service is cleaner than it has been for decades." He said racism was being countered and last week the number of police officers from ethnic backgrounds reached 430 in London.

The public was not free from criticism. "There is a carefree attitude towards crime. I believe we have abdicated our duty to stand up and condemn the criminal." The general lack of concern in society could be seen by the spread of litter in Hyde Park.

Scotland Yard is looking at ways of helping schools to teach children citizenship. Unless parents and adults demand something is done in schools and provide help nothing will happen.

Leading article, page 13

Examining judges play key part in French system

THE *juges d'instruction*, or examining magistrates, are the key people in the French criminal justice system. They have extensive powers to make enquiries and question witnesses, and prepare the case and supervise the police investigation (Frances Gibb writes).

They then decide if there is sufficient evidence for the case to go before a trial court, and will decide whether the defendant should be released. The defendant is held in custody, the magistrate will monitor his treatment before the trial. The "instruction", a secret and inquisitorial proceeding, is designed to provide a more thorough examination of the case than would be possible in open court.

Although examining magistrates have no power to make a final decision

or to impose a sentence their view of the defendant can have a bearing on the trial. Magistrates, who work with the help of a clerk, question the defendant and witnesses and try to bring other evidence to light.

A magistrate may decide to visit the scene of the crime and order specific enquiries such as an autopsy, forensic science reports, or the seizure of evidence, and can even interrogate witnesses at the scene. However, magistrates, who are often very young, usually issue a general enquiry commission, requiring police to take all necessary steps to establish the truth. The magistrates are supposed to be independent from the government and the prosecution, but in practice they work closely with the latter.

Prosecution service lawyers will be closely monitored

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONAL inspectorate is to be set up to monitor the consistency and quality of decisions taken by lawyers in the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), particularly those involving the dropping of cases.

The inspectorate's task will sample decisions on cases and its director and staff will make regular checks of the service's work. However, the government said yesterday that it would not be practical to carry out a review of each decision taken at court to drop charges as 134,305 cases were discontinued last year.

In its reply to a home affairs select committee investigation into the service, the government says a number of other proposals to improve the CPS operation are being considered. The select committee's report earlier this year made 58 recommendations to improve the running of the service, and particularly to

advance communications with the police.

Sir John Wheeler, chairman of the select committee, welcomed the response from the government as very positive. He admitted that problems involving relationships between the service and 43 police forces had to be resolved.

He said: "The CPS is a national prosecution service but there is no national police service. A national organisation has to forge a relationship with 43 services. That is one of the problems with our Victorian police structure."

As part of an attempt to improve relations between the service and police, the government is backing training to familiarise the service and the police with each other's work.

The government rejects calls for the prosecution of summary offences to be returned to the police as a retrograde step. It dismisses as

inappropriate the option of police undertaking a private prosecution if the two organisations disagreed on whether to bring a prosecution in a particular case. "If in the end the CPS takes a contrary view, that will prevail," the government says.

It also rejects the idea of allowing the police to combine a caution with some sort of penalty. It says new guidance expected to be published shortly by the Home Office will establish national standards for cautioning with a presumption that it be considered for all age groups.

In an attempt to minimise the number of occasions on which the Crown Prosecution Service is late in preparing cases for court, the government emphasises the importance of the submission of good quality police files to the service and says it will consider the feasibility of mandatory time limits for each stage of the prosecution process.

It accepts in principle that the service should have a single officer responsible for a case throughout and says it is highly desirable that every crown court should have a sufficiently senior CPS officer in attendance. There should also be a clearly identified police officer who is in charge of investigating a case liaising with a clearly identified CPS lawyer.

The government says: "Both organisations need to think through the implications of this specific proposal, to assess the changes which it would require in existing arrangements... and whether or not they are practical and in the best interests of overall value for money in the criminal justice system."

Leading article, page 13

Guinness evidence draws to a close

THE Guinness trial reached a milestone yesterday when the jury was told that it would hear no further evidence concerning the allegations over the £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers.

The evidence of Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman and chief executive, came to a close yesterday and his three co-defendants chose not to go into the witness box or to call evidence.

The trial at Southwark Crown Court has sat for 90 days, 78 with the jury. Mr Saunders, Gerald Ronson, head of the Heron Corporation, Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, and the financier Sir Jack Lyons variously deny 24 counts including theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

It is alleged that an illegal share support operation was mounted in 1986 to ensure that the Guinness bid for Distillers succeeded, with success fees and indemnities being paid to those who backed Guinness.

The jury was told that a government enquiry into the takeover was launched in December 1986. Mr Saunders was dismissed from his £350,000-a-year post the following month after the former company finance director Olivier Roux, the prosecution's main witness, alleged that Mr Saunders had been involved in illegal transactions. An auditors report had also outlined areas of

concern over the bid. Mr Saunders' defence was opened on June 5 and, after giving evidence himself for five weeks, nine witnesses were called to support him.

After his case was closed, counsel for his co-defendants closed their cases.

Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, for Mr Ronson, said: "Mr Ronson relies on the evidence he gave to the jury to the Department of Trade inspectors as long as three years ago and accordingly he does not propose to give evidence or call any witnesses."

The Crown called 50 witnesses during 53 days of evidence.

The judge Mr Justice Henry told the jurors that the trial had reached a milestone. The jury has been told that it will not be required in court until next Wednesday. The court will sit again tomorrow to hear legal submissions.



Saunders: gave evidence for five weeks

Muslim majority urged to speak out

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MODERATE Muslims, who have a clear majority in Britain's Islamic communities, should exercise their moral authority to silence extremists such as Kalim Siddiqui, Michael Day, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality said yesterday.

He said that Dr Siddiqui, who on Saturday called for the creation of a "Muslim parliament" in Britain, was an isolated voice within the Islamic community who had set back its interests by displaying an enthusiasm for racial separatism.

Mr Day, in his first public reaction to the proposal, said,

however, that he would be worried if Dr Siddiqui, the director of the Muslim Institute, were ever to be prosecuted for any of his statements.

Dr Siddiqui has been investigated by the Director of Public Prosecutions for possibly inciting people to murder by publicly supporting the late Ayatollah Khomeini's *fatwa* or religious edict, calling for the death of Salman Rushdie, the author.

"My misgivings are that if action were to be taken against him it might give him undue prominence and further polarise opinion among Muslims," Mr Day said.

He said he would prefer to see moderate Muslims, who had been horrified by the radicalism expressed by people such as Dr Siddiqui, exerting peaceful pressure on the extremists to shut up.

His views were echoed by Mrs Shahwar Sadeque, a Muslim commissioner with the Commission for Racial Equality, who said that Dr Siddiqui should be marginalised.

They were speaking at the relaunch yesterday of the commission's local network of over 90 community relations councils whose brief has been sharpened to make them concentrate on fighting discrimination.

"We want to harness their experience and knowledge to work with us more systematically in tackling discrimination with a harder edge," Mr Day said.

Activities geared simply to promoting good race relations in a broad sense would receive less emphasis. The commission also hopes to enhance the management of the councils by insisting that a third of the membership of their executive committees retire each year and by improving training.

Mr Day said the move marked a new phase in the struggle against racial inequality in Britain.

The sails of Shipley Mill in West Sussex being swung into position yesterday to complete a two year restoration project. The mill, built in 1879 for grinding corn, is the biggest smock mill in Sussex. It was built with the lower two floors of wood and its restoration was carried out initially as a memorial to the author Hilaire Belloc, who once owned the site and who died at Shipley in 1953. The latest £150,000 restoration project was initiated by the Friends of Shipley Mill helped by West Sussex County Council. A plaque on the mill from an earlier restoration reads: "Let this be a memorial to Hilaire Belloc, who garnered a harvest of wisdom and sympathy for young and old."

Law Lords ruling clears way for poll tax refunds

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

FIVE Law Lords yesterday paved the way for four million people to receive refunds on their poll tax bills by upholding the government's right to cap local council spending.

Their unanimous judgment will also clear the way for ministers to make greater use of capping powers next year if councils exceed government spending targets. Chris Patten, the environment secretary, who will announce the outcome of the ministerial review of the charge in the Commons tomorrow, hailed the legal victory as "good news for charge payers".

He also issued a warning that he expected councils to make the reductions needed to stay within their lower budgets entirely from cuts in poll tax demands. Some of the 21 capped councils have said that the cost of sending out new bills and low rates of payment mean that they cannot reduce the community charge to the level sought by ministers.

Mr Patten, who has made it clear that he will use the courts to enforce poll tax cuts, said: "It is my firm view that the reductions in budgets must feed through in full to reductions in charges." The cuts should come into effect by the middle of next month, he said.

The councils acknowledged that budgets would now have to be reduced but Sir Jack Layden, the chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said they would consider taking their case to the European Court of Justice in Brussels. A more immediate concern for the councils will be raising the estimated £1 million needed to pay for what has been one of the longest legal challenges to the government.

Lords Bridge, Brandon, Oliver, Goff and Jauncey dismissed arguments that Mr Patten had exceeded his powers and acted unfairly by imposing spending limits on the 21 councils. Full reasons for the ruling will be given at a later date.

Capping orders approved by parliament last week will reduce the budgets of the 21 councils by £217 million, cutting community charge bills by between £26 and £99 a head. Mr Patten said after the judgment: "It means that I can now help over four million charge payers who have been suffering from the effects of authorities' excessive budgets. I will now very shortly serve the statutory notices."

The Labour-controlled Local Government Information Unit, which co-ordinated the councils' campaign, condemned Mr Patten for exercising "power without responsibility". Alan Pickstock, its official spokesman, said the ruling effectively gave Mr Patten the right to "ignore the outcome of elections" by preventing

councils spending money to implement election pledges.

"He has the power to take decisions which affect the daily lives of millions of people. But the responsibility for providing vital services with inadequate funds remains with the local councils. The decision re-emphasises that the poll tax has nothing to do with local accountability."

Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, said: "It is hardly surprising that the courts should find that Mr Patten, having provided himself with legal powers, did not exceed those powers when he imposed a cap on local authorities. The legal test is, however, different from the test of fairness and common sense. On those issues and in the court of public opinion Mr Patten is a guilty man."

Ronnie Fearn, the local government spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, said: "It is a sad day for the accountability of local government. Chris Patten should have given his reason for capping each individual council."

Stab victim 'left to die in road'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN INDIAN taxi driver lay dying in the road from 58 stab wounds while his killer walked calmly to the home of his girlfriend nearby where she washed his blood-stained clothes and shielded him from police investigating the murder, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Steven Croker, aged 21, had arrived dripping with blood and went to bed with Sarah Eyles after she had helped him to hide his knife and clothing in the loft. The couple spent the following day together as police conducting house-to-house enquiries called at Miss Eyles' home, but left without realising that the murderer had been given refuge there, the court was told.

Mr Croker, unemployed, of Telford Road, Southall, west London, denies murdering Kuldeep Singh Sekhon, a family man aged 35, on November 11 1989, but admitted manslaughter. Miss Eyles, 22, also unemployed, has pleaded not guilty to perverting the course of justice.

The taxi driver was taking Mr Croker to see Miss Eyles at her home on the Redwood Estate, Cranford, west London. He decided he was not going to pay the fare and an argument developed.

Opening the case Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury it would have to decide on the killer's state of mind, but added: "It was not anything more than an evil act done upon that Indian taxi driver under the influence of drink or drugs."

Mr Sekhon, from Southall, was covered in stab wounds which penetrated his lungs and heart, the court was told. "After the killing Croker went off, taking his time, quite calmly to Miss Eyles," Mr Worsley said. "She let him stay there and take refuge and indeed, after she washed his clothing, these two young people went to bed together."

He told her what he had done, and also told friends who called at his girlfriend's house. The following night he told friends in a pub of the "ferocious attack" and even claimed he had dumped the murder weapon in a river.

The trial continues today.

Cabinet expected to take cautious approach on troop reductions

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HOPES of a substantial peace dividend from the collapse of the Warsaw pact and the diminishing military threat posed by the Soviet Union are expected to be dashed at a meeting of senior ministers today at 10 Downing Street.

The cabinet's overseas and defence committee, chaired by the prime minister, is likely to adopt a cautious approach towards cuts in British forces in the light of the upheavals in eastern Europe. Tom King, the defence secretary, set the tone for today's meeting in the Commons when he emphasised yesterday the need for "a certain prudence" in responding to the changed military circumstances in Europe.

Conservative MPs supporting him said that the government should not be stampeded into precipitate decisions by what could prove to be short-term shifts in the military threat. Mr King added that the

"headlong process of change" in recent months in eastern Europe could alter.

David Martin, Tory MP for Portsmouth South, said that it would be criminal folly to scale down nuclear and conventional forces to the level at which Britain was not prepared for unforeseeable eventualities. Defence department sources later underlined the government's reluctance to be hurried into sweeping reductions in Britain's forces. One commented: "The idea of a government of this kind rushing into enormous defence cutbacks is simply incredible."

Mr King also moved to repair the damage done to Anglo-German relations by Nicholas Ridley's attack on Bonn's ambitions in Europe. He insisted that "friendship and partnership" were at the heart of the alliance between the two countries. He also congratulated Germany and the Soviet Union on the "remarkable landmark" of the acceptance of a united Germany in Nato. The outcome of the

cabinet committee meeting is likely to prove something of a setback for Alan Clark, the minister for defence procurement, who proposed a net reduction of £17 billion over the next 10 years in the defence budget.

In a paper that caused consternation among defence chiefs, Mr Clark recommended a drastic shift in Britain's military posture, with deep cuts in the navy's surface fleet and the armour and manpower of the Rhine army. This would release cash to be spent on smaller and more mobile forces capable of being deployed out of the Nato area.

It is understood, however, that he has already been forced to abandon, as too costly and impractical, his ideas of creating nuclear-powered carrier fleets with a capacity for "force projection" in potential trouble spots such as the Gulf and the Far East.

The committee will have before it the *Options for Change* paper, which is

understood to set out a number of options and to recommend a middle course between the present position and Mr Clark's radical proposals.

Modest reductions in defence spending will also come as a disappointment to the Treasury, which has been seeking an immediate cut of £1 billion in the defence department's £21.2 billion budget. However, as the public spending round gathers pace, Treasury ministers will have the consolation of knowing that they will not now face a rush by ministers from spending departments anxious to lay their hands on a substantial peace dividend.

Up to 800 jobs could be shed by Rolls-Royce in Bristol over the next two years after the defence ministry's decision to halt an order for 33 Tornado aircraft for the RAF, the company said yesterday (Craig Seton writes).

The Rolls-Royce plant at Filton is involved in making the RB 199 engine for the Tornado and the company estimates

that the 8,000-strong workforce could face cuts of between seven and ten per cent through natural wastage unless alternative orders are secured.

The ministry announced last month that an order for 26 ground attack and seven air defence Tornados, each worth £20 million, was being put on ice, rather than cancelled, because the aircraft were judged as excess to current requirements. The decision was taken against the background of the rapid thaw in East-West relations.

The Bristol plant is making between 30 and 40 per cent of the RB 199 for the Tornado in a collaborative venture with Italy and West Germany. A spokesman for the company said yesterday: "It was obvious that we were going to feel a certain impact from the cancellation of the Tornado contract. Various options are being considered to bring more work to the plant and we are hopeful there will be no requirement for compulsory redundancies."

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Inspectorate's report criticises education in Hackney

Schools' results 'far below national average'

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

PARENTS in a London borough were told yesterday that their children were being badly taught in badly-behaved classes run by unqualified teachers in dilapidated buildings.

In one of its most critical reports, Her Majesty's Inspectorate said that the schools in Hackney, east London, were producing results far below the national average and failing many of their children. Inspectors found that teachers did not support each other, were poorly dressed and unpunctual, and that children's work was either not marked or treated casually.

Many teachers were from overseas, unused to the English system and the language, because experienced British teachers would not take the jobs. The inspectors said: "Nothing can be achieved unless the central problem of teacher recruitment and retention can be resolved. All the rest is dependent on that."

John MacGregor, the education secretary, said that the education provided in Hackney was not good enough. He is sending in a team of government inspectors to work with local officials to

produce by November a plan to raise standards.

Mr MacGregor said that the problems were the legacy of mismanagement by the Labour-controlled Inner London Education Authority (Ilea). The new local education authority, which took over in April, had begun to make changes but was still failing to achieve the necessary improvements.

Gus John, Hackney's director of education and a former assistant education officer with the Ilea, said that the report mirrored his own concerns. He would work with the DES to continue to improve standards.

Primary school inspections in Hackney since 1988 showed that 42 per cent of lessons were less than satisfactory, a later examination of a smaller number of primary schools in January this year showed that 55 per cent of lessons were unsatisfactory, compared to the national average of 30 per cent. The inspectors conclude: "None of the primary schools inspected is outstanding; most range from adequate to poor; about half a dozen give cause for concern."

The inspectors were critical

of the standard of English lessons and said that too little attention was being given to help children to speak, listen and write. Reading was held up because of the frequent changes of staff.

Primary schools give high priority to mathematics but the lessons do not stretch the pupils. In other subjects, much of the work is ordinary and tedious. Science, geography and history suffer from lack of planning and low expectations. There is little work of quality in art and technology in spite of adequate resources.

Pupils behaved unacceptably badly in a few schools. In daily assembly many schools failed to maintain standards because too many teachers refused to attend, insisting on using the time to prepare lessons.

Old buildings reduced the quality of teaching. "Over half the schools visited provide a dismal setting for teaching and learning: untidy classrooms, poorly organised resource rooms and a low standard of cleaning contribute to the shabby environment. In some schools the quality of facilities, such as the toilets, raises

questions about the attitudes which are conveyed, consciously or unconsciously, to pupils by the school. For example, in one primary school a single toilet roll was left hanging at the entrance to the building," the inspectors said.

In secondary schools, overall standards were significantly below the national average. In Hackney, more than 40 per cent of lessons are judged to be less than satisfactory with a tenth of all lessons having serious shortcomings. Half the science and mathematics lessons and two-fifths of English were unsatisfactory or poor.

The inspectors reported on a typical bad lesson: "The teacher's control is precarious and lessons are disrupted by bad behaviour. Lack of adequate classroom control is often linked to unpunctuality by pupils or teachers or both... in the worst instances lessons degenerate into noisy chaos."

Mr MacGregor said that some good work was being done in some Hackney schools but "far too much of what is on offer is simply not good enough".



John, education director: critical report mirrored his own concerns on schools

MacGregor and unions clash on vacancies

UNIONS and the government took opposing views in the long-running argument about teacher supplies when John MacGregor, the education secretary, yesterday released the latest figures of classroom vacancies in England (David Tytler writes).

He maintained that the figures showed that teaching was holding its own against other careers with a national vacancy rate of 6.494, or 1.8 per cent, against 4.395 in 1988 and 5.540 in 1989. He said that the figure was "skewed" by the particular difficulties in London where teacher vacancy rates were 5.3 per cent compared with 4.3 per cent in 1989. The failure to employ enough experienced teachers was seen as the main cause for

the poor education delivered in Hackney which in January this year was short of 152 teachers. It has hired 140 of the 260 needed to start the autumn term.

The National Union of Teachers (NUT) said that the figures confirmed a joint union survey last autumn which claimed there were 8,000 vacancies in England and Wales. Doug McAvoy, NUT general secretary, said: "It is further proof of the union's claim that teacher supply, recruitment and retention is reaching crisis proportions. What has been done to date doesn't even begin to tackle the problem."

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said: "These are appalling figures. They mean that 130,000 pupils

were without a properly qualified teacher in front of their class and confirm Labour figures which have been derided by government ministers."

Mr MacGregor published the vacancy figures alongside the government's response to the report from a Commons select committee on teacher supply earlier this year.

Regional teacher vacancies in 1990 (with 1989 figures in parentheses) were: North, 150 (154); Yorkshire & Humberside, 433 (355); North west, 543 (526); East Midlands, 299 (290); West Midlands, 557 (484); East Anglia, 141 (106); Greater London, 2,505 (2,124); Other South east, 1,306 (1,159); South west, 560 (342). Total for England: 6,494 (5,540).

Courage of officers in jail riot is praised at enquiry

A PRISON governor without riot equipment led a team of officers in "courageous" actions when trouble broke out at a Victorian jail, a Home Office enquiry was told yesterday.

Daniel McAllister, a trained commander of riot and restraint teams, said rioting inmates prevented him from collecting his riot equipment when disorder erupted at Horfield prison, Bristol, on April 8, leading to £1 million damage. He commanded his team in the jail's trouble spots wearing a lounge suit.

The enquiry, at Taunton, Somerset, was told the team held an important internal bridge to prevent rampaging prisoners spreading trouble to different wings, and made repeated, but unsuccessful, attempts under a barrage of missiles to free an officer they thought was being held hostage. Mr McAllister also directed a team that brought out a seriously ill inmate under

the protection of riot shields, bombarded by missiles from prisoners on the roof. Lord Justice Woolf, the enquiry chairman, praised the courage of the governor and his team, whom he publicly thanked yesterday. The enquiry is into the disturbances in prisons in the south-west in April, which broke out after the rioting at Strangeways prison, Manchester.

Lord Justice Woolf and a team of assessors are investigating the disorders in prisons at Dartmoor, Cardiff and Bristol, and at a remand centre at Pucklechurch, Avon. Damage totalled more than £2.5 million.

Mr McAllister said he was in his room on A Wing on that Sunday when an alarm sounded about 6.30pm. "It was pandemonium," he said.

Between 60 and 70 inmates were involved at that time, and a further 50 to 60 were milling about. Mr McAllister said he called in a control and

restraint team and ordered the 12 officers to hold an internal bridge, separating A Wing from B and C wings.

Staff were evacuated from A Wing, where prisoners were building barricades, and he was told that officer Bob Santley was in a cell on the ground floor with prisoners. The enquiry was told that officers protected by riot shields tried to cut through the bars of a ground floor cell where Mr Santley had been taken by prisoners for his own protection. Mr McAllister said he directed three attempts to free the officer in which two men were injured by flying debris and one officer was knocked unconscious by a missile.

Mr McAllister said he led his team through a passage to A wing, where a wooden door had been jammed by inmates. "Most of these inmates were armed with bed ends or table legs and among them I saw Mr Santley dressed as a prisoner."

With his team around him, he asked the orderly officer to unlock the gate and allow some of the prisoners out. "It was like the cork coming out of the bottle, with Mr Santley and about 16 inmates popping out." The door was relocked and there were no problems as the inmates were moved to another wing. Mr Santley was shaken but unhurt.

The enquiry continues today.

Ministry ignoring countryside needs, Heseltine claims

Michael Heseltine, the former environment secretary, has accused the Department of Transport of showing minimal concern for the environment in its plans for a motorway service station in his Oxfordshire constituency.

Mr Heseltine, MP for Henley, told a public inquiry in Benson, Oxfordshire, yesterday that proposed development on a green field site alongside the M40 at Tetworth, below the Chiltern hills, was too big and in the wrong place. The department wants to build a 100-acre service area close to what would have the site of Stone Bassett, a new town for 15,000 people which was rejected by Chris Patten, the environment secretary, earlier this year.

The service station would be the biggest in the country and would handle about 20,000 vehicles a day and would include a restaurant and filling station.

Mr Heseltine, who supports residents, conservation groups and local authorities opposing the scheme, said that large service stations should be developed in urban areas, not open countryside.

He said: "I do not accept for a minute that the ministry of transport has a juggernaut-like right to take open countryside for the car and the lorry." Mr

Heseltine urged the environment department inspector hearing evidence to reject the transport department plans and to recommend a compensation award to local campaign groups who have fought costly battles against the Stone Bassett and Tetworth projects.

The inquiry was adjourned until today.

Stillborn babies plea

MIDWIVES yesterday demanded rights for thousands of stillborn babies who will be affected by proposed changes in abortion legislation.

Miss Ruth Ashton, general secretary of the Royal College of Midwives, said the law should be changed so that a 24-week child can be officially classed as stillborn and entitled to a legal burial.

That would be in line with the abortion white paper which limits terminations from the present 28 weeks to 24. "The implication of this is that the government now

recognises that a baby can be born alive at 24 weeks," Miss Ashton told a Manchester news conference.

"If a baby can be born alive at 24 weeks, we believe the mother should be allowed to have the baby registered as a stillbirth," she said.

Mrs Jennifer Kelsall, a member of the college's ruling council, said that a stillborn baby had a legal status and the parents would have a legal right to have it buried. "At present this is denied to mothers producing babies between 24 and 28 weeks."

Probation officers reject changes as wasteful

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans for big changes in the structure of the probation service have been rejected as a costly waste of time by Britain's 6,000 probation officers.

The proposals are mainly aimed at persuading the service to adopt a more controlling and punitive approach to offenders, the National Association of Probation Officers says. It believes they would do nothing towards achieving the Home Office's intention of enhancing accountability and good practice or reducing offending and the courts' use of custody.

The association says the plans threatened to further reduce morale in a service already demoralised by government proposals to toughen community penalties by such means as introducing curfews, possibly policed by electronic tags. It says that if the Home Office chose a national service, the most radical option being considered, there would be wholesale resignations.

The government suggested in a green paper published in February that it was intolerable that the Home Office, which meets 80 per cent of the service's £240 million annual costs, should have so little control over it. It also claimed that there were unacceptable variations in service provision and management standards between the 54 self-governing probation areas.

The green paper proposed such remedies as amalgamation of smaller areas and the creation of a national service run directly by the Home Office or by an executive agency. It also suggested that membership of probation committees, the service's management bodies which are dominated by magistrates, should be broadened to include, for example, businessmen or leaders of the local ethnic communities.

The association says that probation officers, whose tasks include supervising non-custodial penalties and orders, advising prisoners and producing reports on offenders for courts, are now successfully handling growing numbers of more serious offenders as courts become more sparing in their use of imprisonment. It points out that between 1985 and 1989 the number of offenders receiving probation orders after crown court convictions rose by five per cent.

EXCLUSIVE THIS WEEK IN



- Marina Mowatt introduces baby Zenouska to Hello! readers and talks about her new role as a mother and her love for husband Paul.
 - Edward Kennedy pays tribute to his mother Rose.
 - A surprise birthday party for Sylvester Stallone.
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Four hundred people are to be paid £10 each by the government for doing nothing. They will be the "control" in an experiment to test bathing water standards.

One batch of 400 will be asked to dip their heads under the Mersey's surface. They will then be examined to see if they have been affected by Britain's most polluted river. The other 400, who will not go near the water, will also be tested so that the results can be compared. The test is for the National Rivers Authority and the environment department.

Decision delay

Judgment was reserved yesterday in the renewed attempt by the Attorney-General to have Ian Hislop, editor of *Private Eye*, fined for contempt of court over publication of two articles about the Yorkshire Ripper's wife, Sonia Sutcliffe.

Sporran secret

Dr Robert Macaulay, aged 48, of Clarence Street, Edinburgh, was found with cannabis worth £57 in his sporran as he was about to fly from Heathrow. He was yesterday fined £125 by Uxbridge magistrates.

£750,000 paid

A teenager has accepted a £750,000 out-of-court settlement of a claim resulting from treatment at Brompton Hospital, London. Joseph Rushbrook, aged 18, of Benington, Hertfordshire, is now said to be mentally handicapped.

All out

Edgar Watts, the cricket bat making firm of Bungay, Suffolk, is to close in September.

Case put back

Magistrates at Billericay, Essex, yesterday adjourned a manslaughter case against a man whose motor-cyclist son, aged 10, was involved in a crash which killed a 12-year-old on a BMX bicycle.

Algae alert

Some water sports have been suspended at the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont, near Nottingham, after the discovery of potentially poisonous algae.

Bun was mouldy

The fast food firm Wimpy was yesterday fined £250 by Exeter magistrates for selling a cheeseburger with mould on the bun. Bytemonad Ltd, of Newton Abbot, Devon, a franchise firm trading as Wimpy, pleaded guilty.

Up and down

A bus shelter built in the face of local opposition at Glastonbury, Somerset, has been knocked down after just 24 hours by a runaway bus.

Reunification fuels tensions on the Oder-Neisse line

From A CORRESPONDENT IN WARSAW

FEW borders in European history have caused more continuing controversy than the Oder-Neisse line, named after the two rivers that form most of the boundary between Poland and East Germany. It forms the heart of the postwar settlement of Europe, a settlement that has been postponed for more than four decades.

The boundary issue occupied a substantial portion of the first two world war allies' summit conferences, at Tehran in November-December 1943 and Yalta in February 1945. It was touched on again at Potsdam in July-August 1945 after Germany's defeat. Stalin originally suggested the border solution at Yalta — and it is no surprise that the Soviet Union was the main beneficiary.

The emotionally charged issue was generated by Stalin's territorial demands on Poland, a result of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact under which Germany launched the second world war by attacking Poland on September 1, 1939, followed by Moscow 17 days later.

Although Poland's eastern territories contained relatively few natural resources, they were essential sources of energy: oil, natural gas, potash and timber. In addition, the territories had been intimately connected with Polish history for 500 years.

At the same time, Poland had sought from the victorious allies — which included the Soviet Union following Germany's attack on it in 1941 — the return of East Prussia and the ancient Polish territory of Pomerania and Silesia, basing their claim that the lands were originally Polish under the

tenth century Piast dynasty, as well as for a broad access to the sea and for Polish boundary marks on the Oder, according to a manifesto of the Soviet-installed Polish government in Lublin in 1944.

Thus, the postwar conferences produced a different Poland — a state more than 90 miles westward. It gained territory the size of Ireland — about 40,000 square miles — but lost to the Soviet Union almost twice that area — about 70,000 square miles — including Vilnius and Lvov.

But Poland gained in quality what it lost in quantity: the former German territories of Silesia, Pomerania and the southwestern segment of East Prussia. In exchange for poor agricultural land in the east, it was ceded important German industrial areas and attained more of a sea coast, becoming less landlocked. That

transfer of wealth and history still angers many Germans. For decades, those who were expelled formed a powerful minority whose demand that the border must never be recognized could not be ignored by succeeding West German governments — even at the diplomatic cost of keeping Poland's fears alive that someday a German army would use that excuse to march again.

Some three million Poles moved from the eastern territories to the newly acquired western lands, while between 1946 and 1949 more than three million Germans, Ukrainians, Russians and Belorussians left Poland. As a result of the wartime and postwar changes, Poland became ethnically and religiously homogeneous, becoming more than 98 per cent Polish and 94 per cent Roman Catholic.

Poland suffered greatly from the war. Its population dropped from 34.8 million in 1939 to 25.5 million in 1951. Altogether 38 per cent of its wealth had been destroyed. It was estimated that more than 90 per cent of its livestock, 60 per cent of its industrial capacity and 45 per cent of its urban dwellings had been destroyed.

With the lack of a formal end to the war and a formal treaty guaranteeing the postwar border, Poland's postwar foreign policy has been geared to protecting its territory.

Although considering itself "sold out" by the big four at Yalta into the Soviet orbit, Poland did its best to accommodate itself. For example, it supported the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 in an attempt to persuade Moscow that it could trust the

Poles. In return, the Communist party leader, Wladyslaw Gomułka, gained stature among the Russians, and with their approval trumped his career by playing host to Willy Brandt, the West German chancellor, from December 6-8, 1970, during which they signed a treaty acknowledging the Oder-Neisse line as a legitimate frontier of Poland.

In fact, the country's western frontiers had already been guaranteed in the Soviet-West German treaty of September 1970, but Poland played it for the public relations coup that it was.

However, the treaty has never been acknowledged as the final guarantee. The Bonn government had merely renounced the use of force in seeking to alter the Potsdam frontiers.

For his effort, Herr Brandt was attacked at home by opposition

charges that he gave away a third of the German Reich. His reply was that the Nazis, not he, gambled away German land 31 years before when they sent their armies across the Polish border.

With the treaty, Poland also gained the graces of the Roman Catholic church. Previously the church had been reluctant to establish normal diplomatic relations with Poland. But in 1972 it gave implicit recognition of the frontier by appointing six Polish bishops in areas acquired from Germany.

Although the 1970 treaty, and Herr Brandt's *Ostpolitik* that followed, went a long way toward reconciling the wartime enemies, the border issue remained a smouldering question, which has now flamed anew with the imminent prospect of German reunification.

A confident Kohl basks in praise from friend and foe

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

BASKING in the praise of even his political enemies, Helmut Kohl told a press conference here yesterday that he brought "good news for all Germans". He said: "There is now agreement between the Soviet Union and us on all external aspects [of reunification]. We can clearly recognise the contours of the future architecture of Europe."

The West German chancellor said East Germany and the three Western allies had promised him support for Monday's agreement, suggesting the "two-plus-four" talks in Paris yesterday had been rendered virtually superfluous.

On the Polish border question, the main point raised in Paris, Herr Kohl made no reference to the request from Warsaw for immediate talks and an international guarantee that a treaty will be signed after reunification.

He promised a "comprehensive" treaty would be signed "as soon as possible" after reunification in about a year. This would be some six months following unity. He

was adamant that Poland guarantee cultural rights to its ethnic German population in return for acceptance of the present border. Until then he believes Poland will be reassured by the identical resolutions to respect the border passed by the Bundestag and Volkskammer.

After telling the press "we are turning a new page of German and European history", the chancellor announced for the first time that December 2 is the "presumed" date of the first pan-German election.

Herr Kohl tried hard to make clear a united Germany would pose no danger. "We are no world power and I regard it as silly to dream the world power dream," he said. "The intended central role of the united country thus threatens none. The new Germany is not a colossus, which lies somewhere in central Europe, but is fully embedded in the European security structure."

Germany would demonstrate its new friendship with the Soviet Union by signing a comprehensive treaty on economic and political relations between the two countries by next summer. This would be made feasible, he said, by Soviet regulations for a free market economy, which President Gorbachev had promised to lay before the Supreme Soviet in September to be put into effect as soon as possible. Once these measures were in force, the West could offer concrete help. In the meantime West German technical experts in all areas would be available.

Herr Kohl explained the significance of the Soviet promise to withdraw their troops from German soil by 1994. "That means that 50 years after the day on which Soviet troops first entered the then Reich in battle in the second world war, the last Soviet soldiers will withdraw from Germany." What the bilateral treaty with the Soviet Union will cost will take some months to become clear.

Theo Waigel, the West German finance minister, said yesterday in Munich that so far the Soviet leadership had not submitted "a bill" agreeing to a sovereign, united Germany. "Our interests must be in seeing that the reform process in the USSR runs further and positively."

While Herr Kohl was soaking up praise in Bonn, Oskar Lafontaine, his SPD rival, was in East Berlin, talking to protesting building workers worried about the financial effects of unification.

Leading article, page 14

Berlin in move to save army

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

EVEN after reunification, East Germany wants to keep its own army with independent structure and high command, Markus Meckel, the East German foreign minister, said yesterday.

In a statement he said that "the Bundeswehr in future will still not be able to operate on the territory of what is East Germany today", adding this area must still be in the charge of an East German force.

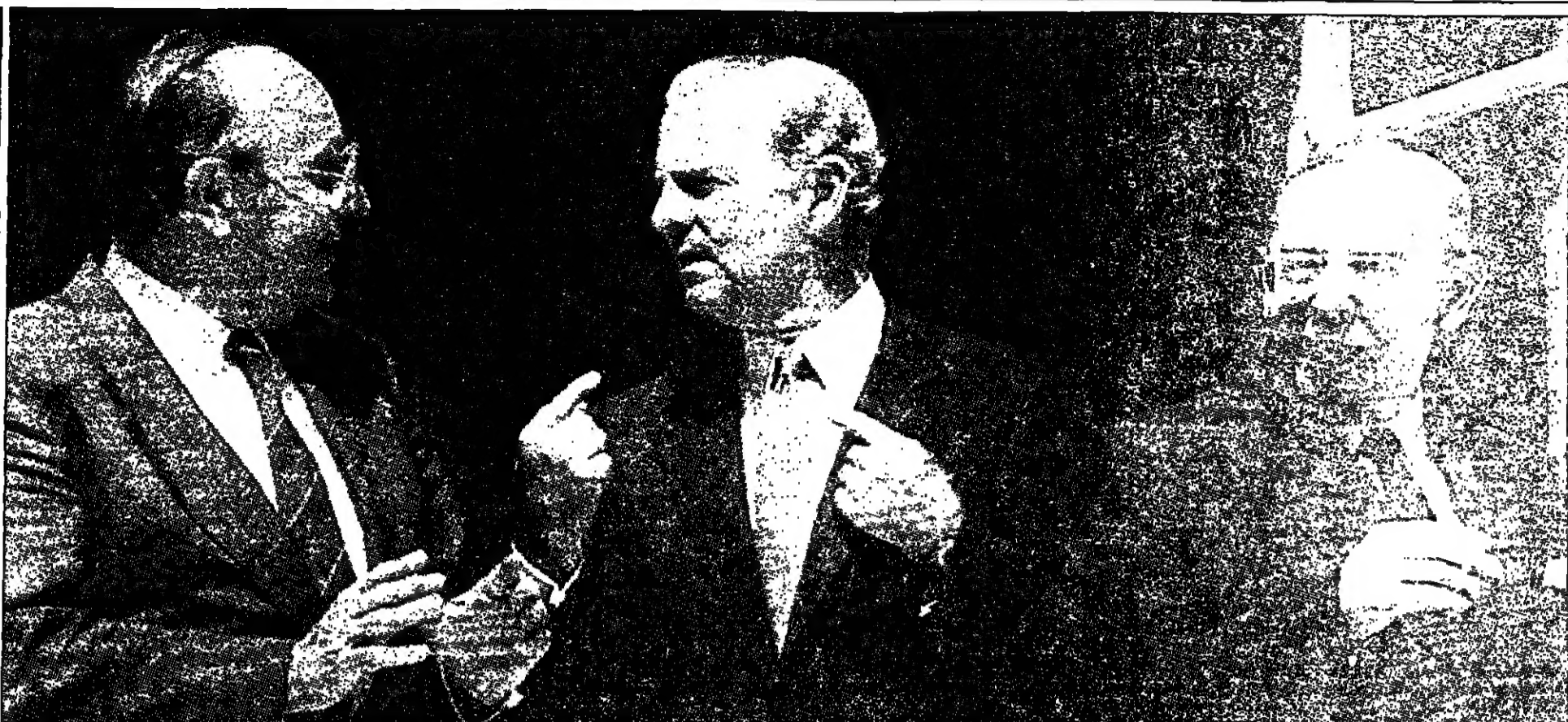
During negotiations in the Soviet Union this week between President Gorbachev and Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, it was agreed that no troops under Nato command should be deployed in what is now East German territory. However, the agreement did accept that "non-integrated units of the Bundeswehr (called 'units for territorial defence') can be stationed in the area of East Germany immediately after reunification."

Herr Meckel's insistence that the Bundeswehr, even as a "unit for territorial defence", should not be allowed to deploy in East Germany, underlines the fact that the government is struggling to retain an element of independence after reunification.

The foreign minister said that the question was not something which needed to be discussed with the four second world war allies, but would instead be negotiated between the two Germans.

West Germany is likely to agree that the job of maintaining security in the area be left largely to men recruited or conscripted locally. However, it is unlikely to accept the concept of a different high command, or structures which are incompatible with the Bundeswehr.

Admiral Theodor Hoffmann, defence minister in the last East German communist government, said in an interview with the *Berliner Morgenpost* yesterday that the National People's Army had drawn up a crisis plan by which it would side with the people if the civil powers tried to put an end to the peaceful revolution. The army, he said, had thus played a leading role in bringing about the change to democracy, and this legitimised its claim to serve in a united German army and to go into reunification "not as losers but as equals".



James Baker, the American Secretary of State, flanked by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, left, the West German foreign minister, and Krzysztof Skubiszewski, his Polish counterpart, outside the "two-plus-four" talks in Paris on German reunification. The Polish border question was the main item on the agenda

Hopes rise for quick Vienna deal on troop cuts in Europe

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE accord reached in Moscow between Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, and President Gorbachev produced a surge of optimism yesterday in talks in Vienna on a pact to reduce conventional forces in Europe.

Western delegates said they believed the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty would be achieved in time for an historic 35-nation summit in November marking the end of the Cold War.

The West has been anxious that both the treaty and the summit should take place before the all-German elections on December 2, but until now many diplomats have consid-

ered the schedule too tight. However, a Canadian official who has been among the sceptics on Moscow's intentions said yesterday he had changed his mind after Mr Gorbachev's announcement that he no longer objects to a united Germany joining Nato.

American, British and West German delegates also said they thought the chances of success were now good, despite important disagreements with Moscow on some points.

The programme the West has set itself will make the next five months one of the busiest periods in peace-time history. Before the Conference on Security and Co-operation

in Europe (CSCE), the 35-nation body linking the United States, Canada and the whole of Europe except Albania, holds its summit in Paris the following hurdles have to be overcome:

□ A split between Moscow and Nato over whether to include land-based naval aircraft in the CFE treaty still shows no sign of being resolved. Negotiators from the 23 Nato and Warsaw Pact countries are in constant session, attending up to 16 meetings a week.

□ The Moscow accord will make one problem more pressing. Under the CFE treaty, Nato and the Pact will

be allowed not more than 20,000 tanks and 30,000 armoured combat vehicles each in the area between the Atlantic and the Urals. There will also be a ceiling for artillery. But some of the weapons belong to East Germany, and, if it joins Nato, its part of the pact's allowance could be transferred to Moscow.

The West has demanded that no one nation should be allowed more than 30 per cent of its side's share, which would avert this risk. But Moscow is demanding more: □ The West will want to be sure that Moscow is ready to start talks immediately on a second CFE treaty as soon as the first is signed. There is a risk that a first accord could produce the sort of imbalance it is supposed to avert unless followed by a second one.

The first treaty will limit the United States and the Soviet Union to 195,000 troops each outside their national boundaries. Moscow need only move them across the borders. The reduction of the future all-German army to 370,000 men, agreed by Herr Kohl, is to be one of the key measures of the second treaty.

□ Separate talks on confidence and security-building measures still have a long way to go. The West has called for greater openness about each side's military spending and activities, and better communications between the two alliances' armed forces.

□ The "two plus four" talks between the two Germanies and the four second world war allies have to be completed before the CSCE summit.

Defence cuts, page 12

Nato optimism on accord

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

MANFRED Wörner, the secretary-general of Nato, returned from Leningrad last night, and in talks this morning with Josef Antall, the Hungarian prime minister, is expected to focus on the momentous agreement to allow a united Germany to belong to the Western alliance.

Nato has expressed jubilation at the Moscow agreement, and sources in the alliance suggested yesterday that the remaining obstacles in the "two plus four" talks can now be quickly overcome.

Herr Wörner will brief Nato ambassadors today, and will also meet German officials to find out more details of the meeting between Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, and President Gorbachev.

He will discuss the implications with Mr Antall, and may also seek to reassure him that the extension of Nato territory eastwards will not upset the balance of power in central Europe.

Hungary has already given notice that it wants to leave the Warsaw Pact, though it has not raised this at formal meetings of the Eastern bloc. Some officials have even hinted that Budapest would like to join Nato.

Officials have tried to dampen such speculation, fearing that it would only complicate relations between Nato and the Soviet Union as Moscow withdraws its troops from most of Eastern Europe.

This morning Herr Wörner

Letters, page 13

Monarchists mark tsar's murder

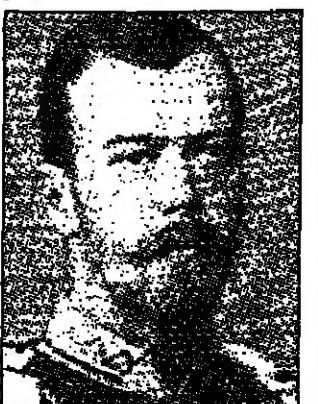
From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

SEVERAL hundred Muscovites took the morning off work yesterday to commemorate the anniversary of the death of the last tsar, Nicholas II, murdered with his family 72 years ago. They traipsed down mud-covered paths from the main road towards the dilapidated estate of the Donskoi monastery here.

Tsarist banners — gold, white and black — fluttered side by side with the imperial Russian tricolour, blue, red and white. In the middle stood a wooden icon of the "tsar-martyr". Behind the banners was a vast bas-relief showing St George slaying the dragon. One of the sculptures saved from the ruins of the Church of Christ the Saviour. The site had not been haphazardly chosen: the church was demolished to make way for a monument to Stalin that was never constructed, and there is now a movement to have it rebuilt. The service, conducted by two Russian Orthodox priests,

began 20 minutes late. Brownish candles were extracted from bags and boxes, passed from hand to hand, and lit. But the monarchists were not in good voice: a half-hearted attempt to sing the liturgical responses was lost in the cooing of pigeons and the rustle of the trees.

But barely half the congregation took any notice.



Nicholas II: inspiration for mass of memorabilia

Some were riffling through their shopping trolleys, setting out tsarist memorabilia — postcards, photographs and badges in the shape of the tsarist crest. Other were selling issues of new monarchist news sheets, and even more were buying. Trade was lively, despite high prices.

This is only the second year that ceremonies to mourn the last tsar have been conducted openly, but monarchists could take little comfort either from the turnout, or the devotion of those present. The monarchist movement is fragmented even before it has been revived. While all its members support the return of a tsar, they cannot agree on who the tsar should be. Support for Grand Duke Vladimir, who claims the throne, is not strong.

A member of the "Russian Popular Front", which claims loyalty to the two-month-old Democratic Russia Party, eventually acquired a loud-hailer and gave lengthy details

of a meeting to rename two streets in a Moscow suburb, as a slightly embarrassed priest waited to conclude the service.

Among the black-shirted young men were several members of the extreme nationalist Pamyat (Memory) organisation. Vyacheslav Demin, a ginger-bearded leader of a movement called Christian Rebirth, made clear that for him, at least, democracy was not a consideration. "The parliamentary path is not the Russian path," he said.

This was not the view taken by Patriarch Aleksii, the newly elected head of the Russian Orthodox Church, who gave his first full newspaper interview to *Pravda* yesterday. His central message was "morality in daily life and patience in waiting for change". He also addressed himself to the mass of Soviet citizens who now blame communism and the party for all the ills afflicting the country, and called for reconciliation.

Prosecutor fears Ceausescu may get off 'scot free'

From CATHERINE ADAMS IN SIBIU

THE prosecutor at the trial of Nicu Ceausescu indicated yesterday that the son of Romania's executed dictator accused of genocide in the December revolution, may walk free from court. Captain Mircea Aron accused witnesses of lying in order to protect him.

On the second day of the resumed Ceausescu trial, Captain Aron said: "The way the trial is going it looks like he's going to get off scot free."

Asked if she thought Mr Ceausescu was likely to be found not guilty, his defence lawyer, Paula Jakobs, said: "We are fighting for that."

ing security forces to open fire on demonstrators in his province of Sibiu, where 92 people were shot dead and hundreds injured last December.

The Communist Party's former chief of technology in Sibiu, Eugen Toma, backed up Mr Ceausescu's claim that the order was, in fact, a drunken remark made after a hasty dinner party. He confirmed yesterday that Mr Ceausescu had told military chiefs to mobilise forces for war, but added: "I think it was just a general comment. He was excited and agitated. I heard him shout for the first time in my life. He had been drinking but was coherent."

Captain Aron said after the hearing that public sympathy for Mr Ceausescu was based on lies. Several witnesses told how people came from all over the country to Mr Ceausescu with their personal

and financial problems and that he managed to provide his people with food while the rest of the nation went hungry. "Nicu would receive up to 40 visitors twice a week. They wanted better housing or medicine. Most of the problems he resolved personally," Mr Toma said.

The Communist Party's regional propaganda chief, Josef Rojescu, praised Mr Ceausescu for helping poor peasants and shepherds by letting them consume their own produce, a practice strictly outlawed by his father. He also told the court how Mr Ceausescu had specifically told army chiefs that there was to be "no shooting under any circumstances" last December.

But the prosecutors allege that many witnesses "clubbed together to concoct stories to exonerate him".

Tribal blood-letting takes over as Liberia rebels close in

FROM JAMIE DETTMER
IN BUCHANAN

THREE pistol shots cracked through the darkness and the personal bodyguards of Charles Taylor, the Liberian rebel leader, giggled. "He was a stupid man, he had to die," they said.

The dead man, who had been led kicking and screaming to the back of a building at Mr Taylor's headquarters in the National Mining Company on the outskirts of Buchanan, had been caught pilfering, a crime frequently being committed on a grand scale by the rebel commanders.

Death is an easy affair in Liberia. The skulls of army soldiers decorating the makeshift checkpoints outside most villages in Nimba county testify to that, as do the jujitsu talismans of hair hacked from an enemy which some rebels gleefully wave around.

Thousands have died so far in the six-month civil war which Mr Taylor, a

former associate of President Doe, launched with Libyan help. All the rebels, most of whom come from the Gio and Mano tribes, say they are only fighting to oust President Doe and to restore democracy to the country. But get them talking about the Krahn tribe, where most government troops come from, and the real bedrock of the conflict becomes clear.

The tribal hatred runs deep and goes back hundreds of years to when the Krahn tribe pushed into Gio areas in east Liberia. "They are rough," said one rebel. "Man, they have done terrible things in this war, slitting pregnant women, killing children, disembowelling people." Villagers along the route from Tazeta in Nimba county, to Buchanan, in Grand Bassa county, confirm the terror the Krahn soldiers brought on their retreat towards the capital, Monrovia. Hardly a Gio family remained untouched. Rape and ritual killings were committed in almost every village.

In the north of Nimba county, the army followed a scorched-earth policy, burning the small, wood and mud-brick huts. Large towns have also been virtually destroyed.

At the village of Charles Johnson's Place, just south of Tazeta, two women were raped and killed and several huts burned by rampaging army soldiers. Moses Johnson, a small, wizened old man, said everyone tried to escape into the bush. "I stayed in my house and they left me alone. I thank God to see a new man. You can tell people about what's been happening here."

Dozens of villages are empty, the inhabitants among the 80,000 refugees in Ivory Coast and the 130,000 in Guinea. The children who are left are already showing signs of malnutrition. If villagers hear a car passing down the dirt roads that pass for roads in Liberia, they rush out and beg for food.

With the planting season having been missed, a famine is looming for Liberia.

The United Nations and the Red Cross are bracing themselves for an influx of more refugees.

While the villagers starve, a reasonably good life is being enjoyed by the rebel forces in Buchanan. The rebel leaders and their entourages have taken up residence on the Liberian Mining Company's estate outside the town. There is electricity and water.

One of the properties on the estate is occupied by Major Seyouh Paim. His full title, "Fifth Battalion Commander, Adviser at War, Advance Committee Member", matches his loud and aggressive personality. He enjoys being a guerrilla leader and wears several bullet belts across his portly figure.

Major Paim is one of the commanders Mr Taylor is probably wary of. As President Doe continues to hang on in Monrovia, protected by his 700 personal bodyguards, the rebellion would appear to be stalling.

Mr Taylor initially held back from

storming the centre of the capital because of international, and particularly American, pressure to avoid civilian deaths. His tactic was to wait for the morale of the beleaguered troops to crumble and for President Doe to take up America's offer of sanctuary.

Reports of fierce fighting in Monrovia suggest that Mr Taylor's forces are finding it hard to knock out Mr Doe's bodyguards. Moreover, in the face of hunger, general lawlessness is beginning to spread in the country. There are signs that some rebel battalions and special forces commanders are starting to set up their personal fiefdoms.

In the past two days, Mr Taylor has been holding peace talks with Prince Johnson, the leader of a 300-strong breakaway faction. Mr Taylor is arguing for a pact until Monrovia has fallen.

The rebels also face the danger of a second Krahn front being opened up in Maryland County, a Krahn stronghold in southeast Liberia. Mr Doe's regime

appears to be still intact there. Prolonged supplies for the rebels are also dwindling. The main source is at the Firestone Company's plantation half way between Monrovia and Buchanan.

As the conflict continues, conditions in besieged Monrovia are worsening. The city has been without electricity and water supplies for weeks. Yesterday, refugees from Monrovia who reached Buchanan said Krahn death squads are still roaming the streets.

William Sharpe, the container manager at Monrovia's sea port, described his dramatic escape with his family. "The rebels launched an attack on the port and captured the coastguard boat. They met heavy resistance and were forced back."

"They took me and my wife and son because they were worried that Doe's people would kill us."

Many Liberians are concerned the tribal warfare will never stop, fuelled by the desire for revenge killings.

Resignations rejected as Singh tries to end disarray

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Indian prime minister, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, emerging scathed but victorious from an internal feud that nearly brought down the government, yesterday invited 13 ministers who had submitted their resignations to return immediately to their posts.

Mr Singh announced that he was rejecting their resignations, much to the relief of senior civil servants who have waited anxiously for almost a week for vital state papers to be signed and outstanding decisions to be taken.

With the business of government in such turmoil, the Soviet Union inquired discreetly whether Mr Singh still intended to go to Moscow next week on a scheduled official visit. Pakistan sought assurances that talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries on Kashmir and other issues would go ahead today and tomorrow in Islamabad.

The answer to both questions was yes. But in several important areas, the government has been at a standstill

while the Janata Dal (People's Party) dreamed of splintering in the worst outbreak of factional fighting since the government took office seven months ago. As one Indian commentator observed yesterday: "A sense of contempt and loathing pervades the corridors of the bureaucracy, where the *babais* (bureaucrats) have always regarded their masters with disdain. Files, decisions, appointments - everything is on hold."

The commerce department was in suspended animation through the departure of its minister, Arun Nehru, and a minister of state. The external affairs ministry has been paralysed as the minister, Inder Gujral, and his deputy quit.

The outcome of the feud amounts to a rebuke for Devi Lal, the deputy prime minister, who appears constantly to be trying to assert his authority over Mr Singh. His unpopular son, Om Prakash Chauthala, has formally resigned as chief minister of Haryana state, just five days after assuming the post. Mr Lal said with a smile that he accepted the outcome "sportingly" and said he would stay in the government.

The resignation has resolved the immediate factional clashes but the affair has left Mr Singh's pledge of serious and principled government in ruins. Cartoons and commentaries in the press here reflect the view that India has again been held up to international ridicule by the antics of its politicians.

In the end, Mr Singh refused to accept any more of Mr Lal's preconditions for peace. At one point the deputy prime minister had offered to tell his son to quit so long as certain ministers who had resigned were not reinstated. The prime minister turned him down.

The four-day fiasco suggests that Congress is still the only party capable of providing a measure of stability in a faction-riddled system where ideology and party loyalty play second fiddle to the ceaseless wheeling and dealing for power.

The National Front government, a five-party coalition, faces new strains that will be harder to handle now that Janata Dal, its main constituent, has been so badly weakened. The right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which leads the government's coalition in parliament, is starting to harden its blatantly religious Hindu doctrine while Mr Singh struggles to reassure India's 100 million Muslims not to be alarmed.

The BJP is behind the government's hardline policy in Kashmir, where tens of thousands of troops and paramilitary forces are trying to put down a Muslim separatist movement. Mr Singh will find himself at odds with the party if he seeks to pursue a more conciliatory policy in the strife-torn valley.

Tourists in Italy flee toxic cloud

Rome - Roads were closed and camping sites evacuated along the northwestern Italian Riviera yesterday after a cloud of gas poisoned 150 tourists near Albenga. Among those taken to hospital, 22 were reported to be in a stable condition. They had been staying at three camping sites which together accommodate more than 1,000 people.

The gas cloud appears to have been caused by a pesticide used to spray crops near crowded beaches.

The incident led to calls by environmental groups to close agricultural sites near the sea or at least ban the use of toxic pesticides there. Their call was supported by tourist resorts which face bankruptcy following the cancellation of holiday bookings.

An inquiry is under way to determine whether the gas cloud was a result of criminal negligence.

Japan to stop driftnet fishing

Tokyo - Japan said yesterday it would suspend driftnet fishing in the South Pacific while measures were devised to regulate the industry (see Joseph writes). The unexpected pledge comes less than a fortnight before the start of the 15-nation Pacific Forum in Vanuatu, where the issue is expected to be high on the agenda.

Japan, already criticised about its whaling habits, was expected to be in the firing line, but it may have now won a reprieve. Fishing by driftnets, known as walls of death, is banned off Japan's own shores.

Khmer Rouge attack on train

Phnom Penh - Khmer Rouge guerrillas killed at least 30 passengers and wounded about 200 in an attack on a train on Sunday afternoon in Kompong Chhnang province, 40 miles northwest of here, doctors said yesterday. More than 120 of the dead and wounded were brought to two main hospitals in the capital.

The attack is believed to be one of the largest by the Khmer Rouge against civilians in the 11-year civil war. It followed a big assault against a train on July 1 near the coastal town of Kampot. General Tea Banh, the defence minister, said (AFP).



A wrecked building blocking a street in Baguio after the quake. Below, a trapped schoolgirl in Cabanatuan weeps as rescuers try to reach her

Rescuers battle to free injured as quake toll rises

FROM REUTER IN BAGUIO, THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE and American rescue teams battled yesterday to free scores of people trapped under concrete and twisted metal in the northern city of Baguio, devastated by an earthquake that killed at least 300.

Some 600 people were injured in Monday's tremor, which registered 7.7 on the Richter scale. Many schools, hotels and other tall buildings in the northern Philippines were destroyed.

Corpses of more than 20 people were pulled from the wreckage of Baguio's Nevada Hotel, where American aid officials were attending a conference. American officials said one American was dead and several others reported missing.

At least 125 people died in Baguio, a resort city in the Cordillera mountains 125 miles north of Manila.

Among the dead were textile workers crushed when their factory collapsed and students killed in the wreckage of a university building, res-

cue workers said. "The damage is much greater than we expected," a government press spokesman said. "Right now the need in Baguio is for water."

The spokesman was accompanying President Aquino to a school at Cabanatuan, north of Manila, where at least 39 children were crushed to death.

Rescue officials in Cabanatuan said more than a hundred students had been pulled from the rubble of their high school alive, but between 50 and 100 were still trapped.

Students enclosed by huge slabs of concrete and twisted metal passed their names out on pieces of paper, reporters at the scene said. Relatives chanted, "They're alive, they're alive."

As Mrs Aquino visited the ruins, rescuers just yards away bored through rubble from where they had heard trapped children crying out. "Hurry, please hurry."

At the Baguio general hospital, about a hundred pa-

tients were encamped on the lawn. Surgeons at Notre Dame hospital performed operations in a tent.

Large cracks on the Baguio airport runway prevented cargo planes flying in medical equipment, which had to be brought by helicopter. The government spokesman said roads to Baguio were closed but might be opened by midnight.

Most of the central portion of the Hyatt Hotel had collapsed and troops searched for staff trapped inside. Rescue operations were hampered by a lack of heavy equipment.

"The rescue workers are extracting more dead than alive," one American television cameraman said.

The American ambassador, Nicholas Platt, flew to Baguio to check on the fate of about two thousand American residents and visitors. "We're working on ways to get as much help and equipment into Baguio as right now the only available means is by helicopter," Mr Platt said.

Syrian hint of talks gets cautious Israeli welcome

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI officials reacted positively, but with caution, yesterday to reports that Syria was willing to consider peace talks. A flurry of statements were issued after Radio Monte Carlo reported that President Assad of Syria had suggested during his recent visit to Egypt that he was willing to negotiate with Israel.

The radio report said Mr Assad had set three conditions for such talks: that Israel return the Golan Heights, captured in the 1967 Middle East war; that the Jewish state reach some arrangement with

Syria on Lebanon; and that there should be an international conference on Middle East peace.

Mr Assad reportedly made the remarks during his historic visit to Egypt, his first in 13 years since Egypt began moving with American backing to make peace with Israel.

At a news conference with President Mubarak, Mr Assad had said: "President Mubarak and I are not in disagreement on the importance that there should be a serious move towards peace." He added: "We work in harmony for

whatever can serve peace."

Israeli officials saw the remarks as heartening, but Assad may have been responding to a secret peace initiative sent from Israel to Mr Mubarak.

Moti Amichai, spokesman for the foreign ministry, said: "We view every indication of Syrian readiness to negotiate peace as positive."

The deputy foreign minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said Israel was glad to have peace-like rather than war-like rhetoric from Syria. "We are very interested to break that

circle and start political negotiations for peace with Syria," Mr Netanyahu said.

He said, however, that Israel stuck by its policy of accepting no preconditions before opening negotiations with Arab leaders.

It is the second signal from Syria that the Arab nation may be willing to talk with Israel.

Last March, Jimmy Carter, the former American president, arrived in Israel from Syria with a message that Syrian officials were willing to hold bilateral talks once Israel

agreed to convene an international peace conference.

Sharon setback: A three-judge panel of the Israeli supreme court yesterday blocked the emergency housing regulations that had been initiated by the housing minister, Ariel Sharon.

The regulations, approved by the cabinet on July 1, would have empowered Mr Sharon to purchase 3,000 prefabricated homes to settle the influx of Soviet Jews. But the court said that such rules should only be used in an emergency.

Hollywood gore leaves public longing for kinder, gentler films

FROM CHARLES BREMMER
IN NEW YORK

NOBODY has ever gone broke underestimating the taste of the American people, according to the dictum of the late H. L. Mencken. This summer, as Hollywood counts the proceeds from its most lavish crop of action films, Americans may be signalling that their common denominator may not be as low as Mencken believed.

Something unusual has been happening. For the past few weeks, the big studios have marshalled their marketing might to launch the most costly series of would-be blockbusters in their history, almost all of them dependent on big male stars, high-tech special effects, minimal plot and usually a steady supply of explosions, crashes and violence. These are the ingredients

which earned a record \$5 billion (£2.8 billion) last year with movies such as *Batman* and *Lethal Weapon 2*.

Yet none of the new behemoths, from *Total Recall* starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, through *Dick Tracy* and *RoboCop 2* to *Another 48 Hours* and *Days of Thunder*, a Tom Cruise vehicle, have stirred the excitement their makers had hoped for and audiences have dwindled. "Pictures open huge and then drop off huge," said Tom Sherak, a senior Fox executive. "Nothing seems to have any holding power, any legs."

The trade paper *Variety* reported that the megabudget films of 1990, many of them sequels and several of which have cost close to \$100 million, are not expected to come near to winning the huge

audiences the studios need. The relative failure is forcing them to rethink the films already in preparation for next summer and prompting critics to wonder whether the cycle of violent spectacle could be waning in favour of a return to the "small is beautiful" approach to film-making.

Roger Ebert, one of the most influential film critics, says that Hollywood has gone too far this year with sadistic mayhem. "When I was a teenager, we went to the movies to see how adults lived. Now kids go to the movies to see how they die."

Other critics are levelling broader charges against the modern film, whether comedy or thriller, with its dialogue of "sound bites", paucity of plot and obligatory happy ending. In a much

talked-about polemic in *Atlantic Monthly*, Marc Crispin Miller, a professor at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, argues in detail that as films have become industrial products in the global marketplace, the makers are homing in on the most inflexible human needs, turning out what amounts to reassuring comic-strips with high contents of violence and sex.

With the pressure in Hollywood to turn out language-proof adventures, some of the best directors and actors have been heading for television. Two respected directors, David Lynch and John Sayles, have over the past year won critical acclaim for their offbeat series *Twin Peaks* and *Shannon's Deal*, shown at prime time. Last week, *The New York Times* noted that a "significant sea change has taken

place in popular culture. It is now the typical Hollywood film that is becoming pointless and forgettable and it is television that is showing distinct signs of being provocative and, on occasion, memorable."

In their defence, the Hollywood studios point out that with so much riding on productions, they must seek to minimise the risks of their business.

The biggest money comes from the formula that works best on the world market, which now brings in more than 40 per cent of revenues. These are the "event movies" featuring such men as Cruise, Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson and Sylvester Stallone. No female stars have as much appeal.

While the world market is important, it is American values that ultimately count. If the audience

fails to rush to the "event movies", the studios will be unable to sustain the spending of recent years, even with their recent influx of Japanese investment. "I think the industry is heading for a readjustment," said Peter Dekom, a leading industry lawyer, in the *Los Angeles Times*. "It will have to change the way it does business. You can't go on paying \$3 million to screenwriters and \$15 million to actors."

Hollywood is now waiting for the public response to a second wave of new films, some more romantic than violent. Among them is *Pleasant Company*, a courtroom drama starring Harrison Ford. If none of the would-be blockbusters take off and gentler dramas draw the crowds, the studios may think about scaling down the gore and explosives next time around.

Buthelezi urges UK to play key role in South Africa reform

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN should exert its continuing influence to bring about a Westminster-style democracy in a post-apartheid South Africa, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday in London.

"I believe Britain has an unfinished job to do in South Africa," the South African Zulu leader said.

There was a British influence which should now be used to bring about the re-emergence of the best that Britain left in South Africa.

Chief Buthelezi was speaking at a seminar on Britain and South Africa, organised by the conservative Centre for Policy Studies, during a one-day visit to London. William Waldegrave, the minister of state at the Foreign Office, was another of the speakers.

There was nothing wrong, said Chief Buthelezi, with the kind of constitution and political process that Britain bequeathed to South Africa. The fact that they had been corrupted by racism did not negate their fundamental acceptability if racism could be excluded.

The vast majority of black South Africans wanted a multi-party democracy based

on the Westminster model.

He accused the African National Congress (ANC) of being — like revolutionaries everywhere — "all or nothing" political animals who had not fought their revolution to enable other political parties to gain power. But, he said, there would be problems if constitutional negotiations were conducted only between the government and the ANC.

Chief Buthelezi said the international community should avoid distributing its support in such a way that caused the ANC to emerge stronger.

The ANC had the advantage, he said, of being able to withdraw from negotiations at any point in close and to adopt confrontational politics by "mobilising unrest", which would hold the negotiating process to ransom.

For its part, President de Klerk's government could only survive by achieving progress in the negotiations. Mr de Klerk could not retrace his political steps. He had burnt his bridges and only forward movement could keep him and his party intact.

Chief Buthelezi is campaigning for a place at the

impending constitutional negotiations.

His political base is Inkatha, a conservative movement which claims a membership of 1.7 million, and which has been involved in a violent campaign with the ANC for the loyalty of the Zulus in Natal province. Although most of Inkatha's support comes from conservatives among the Zulus, South Africa's largest tribe, the movement is now attempting to broaden its support among conservatives in other ethnic groups.

Chief Buthelezi has always fought apartheid from within the political system and has consistently opposed sanctions and the armed struggle conducted by the ANC. He has won the sympathy of Mrs Thatcher by being a strong advocate of the principle of free enterprise.

Mr Waldegrave told the conference that British aid was proving effective in helping to improve the lot of black South Africans, providing 1,000 scholarships as well as a wide range of other assistance. A sizeable black middle class, he said, would provide an indispensable underpinning for democracy in the republic.



One of 25 firemen hurt in the fire in New York's Empire State Building is lifted into an ambulance

Tourists trapped by Empire State Building fire

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Empire State Building reopened to tourists yesterday, after a fire that turned the 102-story New York landmark into a towering inferno, trapping 250 sightseers on the observation deck.

Fire broke out on the 51st floor on Monday evening, forcing the evacuation of about 1,000 people. Some 300 firemen rushed to the building, once the world's tallest. "When our guys got up there, it was already an inferno," said one fireman, Daniel Daily.

Four civilians and 34 firemen were hurt. Most of them were suffering from the effects of smoke inhalation.

Firemen confined the blaze to four unoccupied offices on the 51st floor, which were badly damaged, but smoke spread to the upper floors.

Confusion reigned among the tourists trapped on the 86th floor observation deck. They were eventually evacuated by lift 15 at a time. The last visitor emerged at 10.20pm, almost four hours after the fire was thought to have begun.

"Some people were crying and having nervous trembling fits," said Nabila al-Riyami from Oman, who was visiting

the building with her husband and five children.

David Drinkins, New York's mayor, speaking in front of the building, praised the fire brigade for doing a "great job". Investigators said that although the fire broke out on the same floor as an arson attack two years ago, it did not appear to be deliberate.

The last big fire in the 1,250ft high building was caused by an electrical fault in August 1988.

The Empire State Building was the tallest in the world when it opened May 1, 1931, and held the title until the opening of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan. The tallest building in the world is now the Sears Tower in Chicago at 1,454ft and 110 stories.

Some tourists found the nightmarish fire an essential part of their New York experience. Vera Hollier, evacuated from a ground-floor shop while on a visit from a small town in Texas, said: "We've seen the Statue of Liberty and gone on the Staten Island Ferry."

"But this is the most exciting thing that has happened to us so far in our three days in New York."

Havana 'agents' raided embassy

FROM PETER GREEN IN PRAGUE

THE seven Cubans who took hostage seven Czechoslovak diplomats and five Cuban dissidents in the Czechoslovak embassy in Havana on Monday night may have been Cuban agents, Lubos Dobrovsky, the Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister, suggested yesterday.

The seven had acted suspiciously. "The assailants used karate blows and holds which made the Czechoslovak diplomats believe that they had professional training."

He added that police barricades around the embassy had been strengthened and television camera crews appeared only minutes before the seven attacked an embassy building and took hostage the Czechoslovak diplomats. The five dissidents who first took refuge in the embassy did not join in the attack.

The stalemate ended in the early hours of yesterday when the seven hostage-takers and the asylum-seekers climbed over the embassy wall and surrendered to police. No Cubans remained in the Havana embassy, and discussions would continue with Cuba over the fate of the original five asylum-seekers.

Mandela must revitalise steps to democracy

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

IF PRESIDENT de Klerk is in the driving seat of the reform process in South Africa, then Nelson Mandela must be the indispensable mechanic.

When the African National Congress leader returns today from a six-week overseas tour, he will be required to kick-start back into life the transition to democracy which has stalled in his absence.

Enormous responsibilities weigh on Mr Mandela's weary shoulders as he celebrates his 72nd birthday and recovers from a bout of pneumonia. While being fêted abroad, the impetus for a political settlement has been overshadowed by civil strife, so that Mr de Klerk's ability to govern effectively is threatened.

Terrorism, fuelled by a right-wing backlash, is at its highest level, and violent crime has become the scourge of black townships and the obsession of white suburbs. In Mr Mandela's own constitu-

ency thousands of workers are striking for higher wages in the middle of a deepening recession, while education is in a shambles, squatter communities are being bulldozed almost daily, and a murderous conflict with Zulus in Natal shows no sign of abating.

The prevailing view is that Mr Mandela's return has come not a moment too soon, and that his first priority is to signal ANC willingness to proceed swiftly with negotiations. An early meeting with Mr de Klerk is anticipated, but uncertainty about Mr Mandela's health makes it impossible to predict when broader discussions will resume.

When they do, they will focus on the release of political prisoners and the return of exiles, in exchange for an ANC commitment to renounce or suspend its "armed struggle". Differences have arisen at working group level on the timing and wording of such an ANC quid pro quo.

The government insists on an unequivocal commitment to peace as soon as the ANC guerrillas begin to be released, arguing that it cannot be expected to free them to resume armed insurrection. The ANC counter-proposal is for a "mutual ceasefire" as a prelude to a more formal suspension of its military strategy later, but Pretoria regards this as an unacceptable constraint on its security forces.

Meanwhile, cracks are beginning to appear in the ANC's long-standing alliance with the South African Communist party, led by Joe Slovo. A fellow member of the ANC executive committee, Palle Jordan, has strongly denounced the party for consistently praising every violation of freedom perpetrated by the Soviet leadership before and after Stalin's death.

In a rival bid for power, the conservative Inkatha organisation, led by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the chief minister of the KwaZulu tribal homeland, transformed itself last weekend from a Zulu liberation movement to a multi-racial political party.

A resolution accused the ANC of continually "shifting the goal posts", and inventing reasons not to negotiate. Chief Buthelezi concluded: "Nothing that the ANC can do will shake Inkatha's resolve to claim its rightful place at the negotiating table ... there is going to be a new South Africa with or without the ANC." He was supported by Jannie Mentez, Natal chairman of the governing National Party, who hailed Chief Buthelezi as a champion of peace.

The political landscape changed further this week, when government sources indicated that a prominent Inkatha dissident and a white liberal leader may be invited to alternate as chairmen of negotiations on a new constitution. They said that Oscar Dhlomo, who resigned as Inkatha secretary-general on June 30, and Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, former leader of the Progressive Federal party, would be acceptable to the majority of participants.

Both men said they had not been officially approached, but Mr Dhlomo, a moderating influence on KwaZulu politics, said he was prepared to serve the country on a non-party basis.



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Who will cut defence?

Martin Jacques

Britain is crying out for a new role, a new purpose in life. Weighed down by its history, it always looks backwards, rarely forward. Nowhere is this more evident than in the realm of defence. Ever since the war we have been crippled by a level of defence expenditure — the legacy of empire and great-power pretensions — far beyond what we could afford. As a result, Britain spent considerably more of its GDP on defence than other European countries, and scarce resources were directed to military rather than industrial ends.

We now have an opportunity to break with that costly inheritance. The cold war is over, the enemy has faded in the reason for all that expenditure and all those commitments no longer exists. Now is the moment to make a fundamental break with the past. But will we rise to the occasion? Or will the end of the cold war and the last vestiges of Britain's great-power status be accompanied by indecision, fudge and trauma?

The evidence so far is not encouraging. At the beginning of the year there was much talk of a peace dividend, of large cuts in defence as the reward for victory in the cold war. But the debate about defence remains profoundly muted. Indeed it is virtually confined to the ministry of defence and the service chiefs. Compared with the situation in other European countries, we have barely left the starting block. At the end of the recent Nato summit, President Mitterrand predicted that all 50,000 French troops would be withdrawn from Germany, while the two Germanies have agreed to halve their combined armed forces. Meanwhile Britain, which has a higher proportion of its army in Germany than any other country, more than a third, is conspicuous by its silence.

Of course there will be cuts — there have been some already — but those envisaged before the next election, perhaps £3 billion at most, are small beer in a total defence budget of more than £21 billion. Moreover, these cuts are essentially "Treasury-driven", an exercise in pruning rather than fundamental restructuring. And the latest news about the government's "Options for Change" defence review is that Tom King's caution is likely to prevail over the radicalism of Alan Clark, his defence procurement minister.

Yet there is some reason to believe that Mrs Thatcher offers more hope of a fundamental break with traditional defence policy than anyone else. She is a radical at heart: she is invulnerable to the charge of being weak on defence; and she is prepared to take on powerful vested interests, including one suspects, the defence establishment. There is also a strong free-market case against the present defence arrangements. The argument on the husings is

not difficult to imagine: the war is over, our policy of strength has triumphed, now for the rewards.

But there are also powerful arguments pointing the other way. Like the Tory party itself, Mrs Thatcher is so much identified with strong defence that it will be difficult for her to change. She is likely to be wary of occupying ground which historically has belonged to Labour. And her reaction to the events of 1989 has hitherto been profoundly cautious and conservative.

Yet Labour looks an even more unlikely bet. After taking a hammering for its unilateralism in the 1983 and 1987 elections, it is petrified of the defence question. Labour would fear the charge of being the government that disarmed Britain; it would be weak in the face of opposition from the defence establishment; and it lacks any real imagination or vision on foreign policy. Its contribution to the post-1989 debate has been little short of pathetic. Furthermore, at a time when it is playing safe on every other score, it is difficult to see Labour embracing radical defence plans.

In fact Labour has opted out of the debate. It has had virtually nothing to say. Clark and Tory MP George Walden have offered far more radical solutions. How one misses Denis Healey. One can sympathise with Labour's problem. It is vulnerable on defence, and perhaps that is reason enough for remaining silent, but meanwhile, it should at least be preparing some radical plans to be carried out if it is elected. I doubt it is even doing this.

Here then we have a classic crisis of our political culture. No political force looks like responding in the manner that history demands. Even Alan Clark's proposals are too modest. Defence expenditure should be reduced progressively by about 50 per cent over the next five years. We should abandon any pretensions to great-power status or a global role. The British Army of the Rhine should be withdrawn. Our armed forces should have a purely defensive function.

The resulting savings in the Nineties would be enormous, roughly equivalent to government revenue from North Sea oil in the Eighties. This time though, the money should not be squandered on a consumer spending spree we could not afford: it should be earmarked for the industrial infrastructure and education.

One fears, though, that nothing so bold will happen. There will be cuts, quite big ones, but they will not be a product of any major new reorientation. Rather, they will be the result of Treasury pressure, together with the example of a rather more radical response by other European countries. Another historic opportunity will have been squandered. Our decline will continue, a country in search of a new identity.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

My father, in Sussex, would talk on the phone to his mother in Cornwall at least once a week. They always seemed to spend the first quarter of an hour comparing weather. "What's the weather like with you?" one would say to the other, and off they would go.

It is often wrongly assumed that the English talk so much about the weather because, being polite and reserved, they like to settle upon a neutral topic. But, underneath a veneer of neutrality, motive and talk is highly competitive, and this, I think, is why we enjoy it so.

If my father told his mother that it had been drizzling in Sussex, she would reply that it had been absolutely pelting down in Cornwall, to which he would reply that he thought there would be thunder soon, he had never seen the clouds so dark, to which my grandmother would reply that there would probably be an air-sea rescue from St Mawgan in the next few hours.

I had always rather prided myself on lacking the competitive instincts of the rest of my family, and I would smile in lofty bewilderment while this chat went back and forth. Things change, and these days I am occasionally accused of being competitive, particularly by those I challenge to croquet. I tell them that just because I don't allow them to place their foot on their ball while croqueting, and just because tactics might require me to send their ball hurtling past the horizon, this doesn't mean that I'm competitive. I simply like playing the game properly.

Oddly enough, it was while playing such uncompetitive croquet a fortnight ago that I became increasingly aware of masses of thunderbugs swirling over my face, rummaging through my hair, holidaying on my hands. We call them thunderbugs, most people in the village seem to call them "them things", and no doubt you have another name for them. They are tiny little bugs, the size of a full stop, which appear from nowhere, spend a day irritating whoever they can find, and then disappear back to nowhere.

They seem to me to be totally

useless creatures, with no aim in life whatsoever, and no talent, or even hobby, in any direction. Obviously, it would be too much to expect them to take up media studies or develop a passion for train-spotting, but generally an insect shows a certain flair for something, even if it is only being ugly or frightening. But no. The thunderbug is so small as to be featureless, and he hasn't even learned how to bite. His only cleverness lies in somehow managing to creep between the glass and the painting in a picture frame, there to end its days, or, more accurately, day, leaving the subject of the painting with what looks like a skin complaint. For the rest of the time, he just hangs around at a perpetual loose end, wondering which area of your body to bother next.

Later that day, I found myself talking on the phone from my house in north Essex to my father in Sussex. I started ranting against the thunderbugs, against their presumption, their imbecility, but above all their ubiquity.

"Oh yes," he said, "we've had those."

"Maybe," I said, "but not like we have had them. They're simply everywhere."

"I know," he said, "they get all over you, don't they?"

"But you can't imagine how many we've had," I insisted.

"Oh, yes, I can," he replied, "because we've had them too, don't forget."

By this time, I had grown very defensive about the amazing number of thunderbugs that had aligned on our house. Come what may, I was determined to prove our thunderbugs more numerous than my parents' thunderbugs.

"OK," I said, testily, "I'll tell you how many there are right now, just on my left hand. I then began counting — one, two, three — all the way up to 18, though I did invent a couple towards the end.

That evening, my brother David arrived from the Newmarket races. "You wouldn't believe how many little midgy things there were," he said as he came through the door. Half an hour later, the argument was still raging.

James LeFanu considers the NHS reforms cumbersome and far removed from Tory philosophy

Clarke's prescription for bureaucracy

Every household in Britain will shortly receive a health department booklet explaining how much better, thanks to the government's reform proposals, the NHS will be. But unlike the bluntly detailed *Don't Die of Ignorance* campaign in the early days of the Aids epidemic, *The NHS Reforms and You* is discreet to the point of coyness.

We are told that GP "budget-holders" will be able to use the money allocated to them "to arrange the right treatment for you speedily and effectively. The aim is to improve the choice of good quality service..." — but exactly how is not made clear.

Perhaps the most difficult part of a GP's job is spotting, among the waves of patients passing through the surgery with their trivial, neurotic complaints, the few who are seriously ill and should be referred to specialists. In theory the referral can be to any consultant in the country. If your GP feels that Mr Sawbones FRCS is the best man to do your heart bypass graft or knee replacement, he can send you to him. It may seem an extravagant arrangement, but the founders of the NHS believed this was the only way the

humblest patients could be guaranteed the best attention.

In practice of course, the system rarely works like that. Most referrals are made to consultants of the local hospital, but when the GP believes that, for example, a local heart surgeon is not up to scratch, he has the right to refer his patients to someone else. All pretty simple and straightforward.

Under the new proposals, a budget-holding practice has to negotiate with a number of hospitals to find which will provide the best deal for a particular operation. The criteria are vague, and it will be difficult to be sure that a hospital offering a cheaper operation is not economising on essentials. Once the decision is made, a contract is agreed. The legal status of these contracts is uncertain, but they are complex. In America they run to 26 pages, plus appendices.

If, for example, hospital X offers the best deal on open heart surgery, all patients will go there; similarly, hospital Y will monopolise knee replacements. When the operation is over, a bill will be sent to the practice, and this has to be scrutinised by the family practitioner committee (FPC),

which pays it on behalf of the practice. The bill is then returned to the practice to be entered into its accounts, which have to be returned to the FPC annually for approval. This procedure must be followed for each patient at every hospital with which the practice has a contract.

Such an arrangement requires each practice to have a sophisticated computer system to keep track of all its patients, where they are going, what is happening to them, and whether the bills have been paid. This needs trained staff, as well as far more managers, clerical staff, lawyers and accountants in hospitals to supervise the other side of the agreements.

The proposals will have three consequences. First, being time-consuming for doctors, they will reduce the GP's commitment to the banal but important treatment of minor illness and to holding patients' hands and consoling them. Second, they will restrict the GP's referral options. Even if Mr Sawbones is the best person for a particular operation, the GP cannot seek his opinion unless the practice has a contract with his hospital. And third, the reforms will be inordinately costly, and the

money spent on battalions of extra staff will be unavailable for patient care.

The referral system will not, however, be allowed to become as tortuous as I have outlined. Some adjustments will have to be made. For example, a budget-holding practice might decide to have only one contract — with its local hospital — and a contingency fund for special referrals, which is exactly what happens now, though the method of payment is infinitely less convoluted.

So why should GPs seek to become budget-holders? In part it is a challenge: for some, wheeling and dealing with hospitals may be a pleasant diversion from treating coughs and colds. And there is the sweetener offered by Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary — an initial, non-refundable grant of £16,000 this year and a further £32,000 next year — which though not quite up to British Aerospace standards is not to be shrugged off.

It is important to Mr Clarke that his reforms should appear to work, so budget-holding practices have him over a barrel, and can expect to be given privileged status. At the end of the day, little will have changed, because only a

small minority of practices (covering perhaps 2 per cent of the population) will have the drive or ability to work the new system. The others will carry on as before, although their freedom of referral will be seriously curtailed.

The transformation of a simple referral system into one of baroque complexity can be paralleled in virtually all Mr Clarke's reforms. Administering our supposedly inefficient NHS costs 4 per cent of the total budget; in America, whose market principles we are to adopt, the figure is nearer 20 per cent. The NHS is, in fact, the cheapest and most comprehensive health service in the western world.

The reforms disregard three fundamental Conservative principles: that institutions are not perfectible, that it is a mistake to try to fix something that is already working, and that throwing money at problems is no solution. No wonder Mr Clarke's leaflet is so lacking in details.

One final point. The £3 million of taxpayers' money spent on producing and distributing this piece of propaganda would buy 1,000 kidney transplants.

The author is a south London GP.

Leon Brittan urges a more positive British contribution to Europe — and defends the role of the Commission

Amid its spectacular rhetoric, Nicholas Ridley's *Spectator* interview raised two serious questions which deserve a considered response. Does a united Germany threaten to dominate the European Community, and if so how should that danger be handled? Second, is it acceptable that a non-elected body, the European Commission, should exercise its current role?

The conclusion reached at the Chequers seminar was that Germany and the German people have clearly emerged from the restless expansionism of the early years of the century and the discredited politics of the Thirties and Forties. Of course the German economy is the strongest in Europe, and after a period of adaptation, the addition of East Germany will further increase its strength. The Deutschmark, after all, is already the central pillar of the European Monetary System.

But it does not follow that a united Germany will dominate the Community economically in any sinister sense. Indeed up to now Germany's economic stability has been an asset to the Community. It provides a growing market for European industry, and has helped to finance expenditure in many other EC countries. As we move towards the 1992 single market, the opportunities offered to countries such as Britain will be even greater. Who would have thought, five years ago, that the German market for financial services such as insurance would be opened up to British companies? But that is now steadily happening.

Let us suppose, however, that there is a real risk of a damaging form of domination. What should we do to prevent it? The French have a clear appreciation of the position, and they have far more cause to be worried than the British. Their view is that the best protection is to make sure that a united Germany is more firmly committed than ever to a

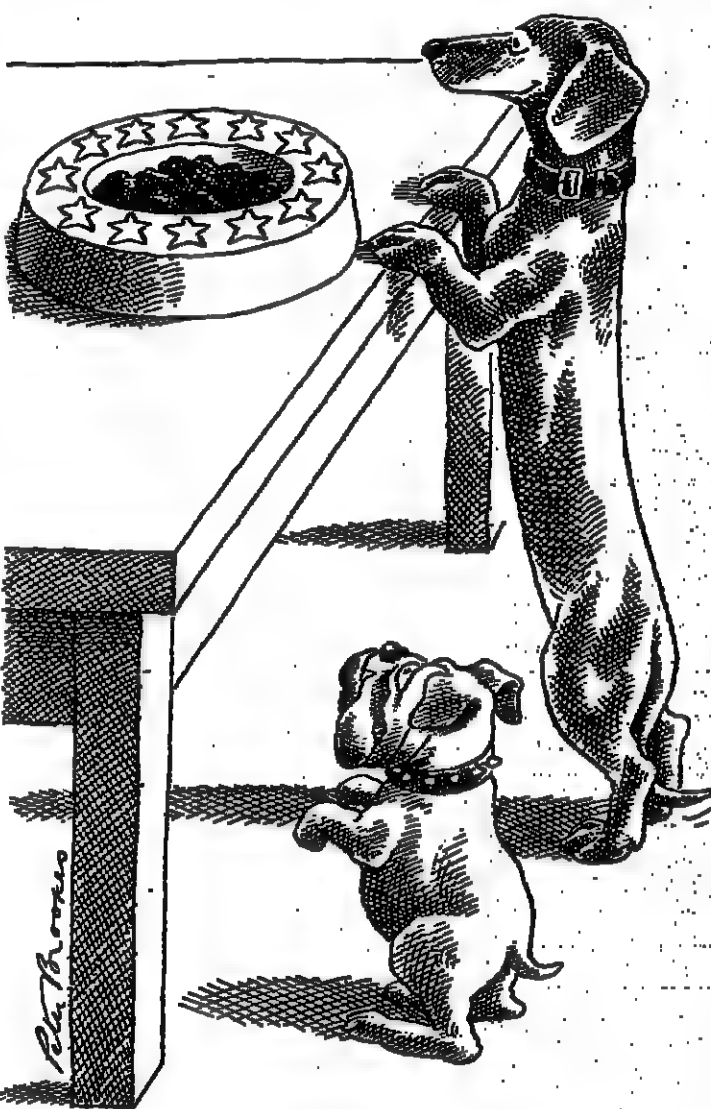
Community growing steadily more integrated economically.

Additionally, if Germany's strength threatens to create an unbalanced Community, the way to deal with that is for Britain to be as active a participant as possible, so providing an effective counterweight. If Britain stays on the sidelines, preferring to remain in the slow lane in a two-speed Europe, German domination will be much more likely. By staying on the periphery, we would be without power or influence, and would simply be left to implement whatever emerged from Brussels and Berlin.

The alternatives are clearly shown by the specific question of European monetary union. Either we have an independent European central bank, of a federal character, in which all the member states are involved and represented, and which is constitutionally committed to maintaining monetary stability, or the rest of Europe follows the German tune in a Deutschmark zone (we have already seen Britain obliged to follow the Bundesbank within 20 minutes of its putting up interest rates).

There can be no doubt that Germany would be less dominant in the proposed Eurofed than it is today — that is precisely why the Bundesbank has had such serious reservations about monetary union — but the worst of all courses would be for monetary union to go ahead and for Britain to stay outside it. In that case, we would be buffeted by an economic colossus over which we had no say whatsoever.

It is, then, through EC institutions that anxieties about Germany can best be allayed, and the Commission has a particular role to play. Two days ago, as commissioner responsible for competition policy, I was in Berlin discussing with the East German prime minister, Lothar de Maiziere, and some of his colleagues the competition problems posed by current mergers of large West



German firms and East German monopolies. He readily accepted that the Commission is entitled to raise these matters, and that the Commission is the proper guardian of the interests of other member states — and indeed of other German enterprises — which might be adversely affected.

So is it objectionable that the Commission is an unelected body? To answer that question, we must appreciate the extent to which the EC has become a pole of attraction throughout Europe and well beyond, mainly because it is manifestly moving rapidly towards its proclaimed goal of the 1992 single market and is

undertaking a range of new tasks, such as spearheading assistance to Eastern Europe.

This dynamism would not be possible without effective decision-making. That is provided by the combination of a Commission with the unique right to make proposals and implement those which are adopted, and a council of ministers and parliament which decide whether the proposals are acceptable. The council of ministers consists of the representatives of democratically elected national governments, while the parliament is directly elected. If the proposals put forward by the non-elected Com-

mission are not approved by the council, they simply accumulate dust. It is that such an undemocratic process?

If there is a democratic deficit, it is because national parliaments feel they have insufficient control over what the ministers in the council do on their behalf. This problem can be partly solved by improving national procedures for scrutinising European legislation. In addition, there is a strong case for creating a committee of national parliaments to bring together representatives of those parliaments with the power to require the council of ministers to explain its proposals, and to advise whether legislation at European level is necessary or whether issues should be dealt with by member states individually.

Even if such a proposal were adopted, anybody who has seen the council of ministers at work will confirm that without the Commission as an engine, the Community would not motor. The 12 ministerial drivers, however, can readily switch off the engine if they want to.

Would an elected Commission be better? I suspect I am not alone among my colleagues in being quite ready to stand for election — almost all of us are used to fighting elections — but is that really what the critics want when they make jokes about the unelected Commission? I doubt it. For if the Commission were directly elected, it would quickly become an embryo government. Democratic legitimacy would inevitably make it far more powerful than it is at present. To elect the members of the Commission would be to take a major, and probably decisive step towards federalism.

I do not advocate such a step. In the current state of Community development, it is right that the Commission should propose, while the council of ministers and the parliament dispose. The Commission is indispensable, but it need not be made more powerful. Those who jibe at it for being unelected have not considered the political consequences of taking their jibe seriously. That is one more illustration of the dangers of rhetoric supplanting reason.

The author is vice-president of the European Commission.

Coe piqued at the post

Celebrity status ought to give prospective MPs a head start over their rivals, but Sebastian Coe is finding it a two-edged sword. The Olympic gold medalist has long been called upon to open supermarkets, garden fêtes and other events, but since his selection as Tory candidate for Falmouth and Camborne he has found that such invitations in Cornwall have dried up, and in some cases have been withdrawn, after pressure by political opponents. He had a long-standing commitment, for example, to open a summer fête at Trengwethal House, a home for mentally handicapped children, but the Friends of Trengwethal House have now asked him not to come "following representations about the political nature of such an invitation". Coe says: "This is their big fund-raising event of the year, and I was looking forward to meeting the children and their families. It's very sad. I have long supported fund-raising events for charities all over the country. Politics doesn't come into it."

Coe's Labour opponent, John Cosgrove, says: "He gets invitations from all over the place simply because he's a celebrity. That's why he gets far more publicity than me." He adds, though somewhat unconvincingly, "Not that I mind."

Over to Hampstead and Highgate, which actress Glenda Jackson hopes to wrest for Labour. There is no sign yet of the Tories putting the same pressure on organisers of local events, but Mrs

Thatcher, alive to Jackson's appeal, has already promised to make two visits to the constituency in support of Oliver Letwin, architect of the poll tax and one of her favourite advisers. Jackson is flattered but unperturbed: "I hope she comes more often — every visit would be worth a couple of thousand votes to me."

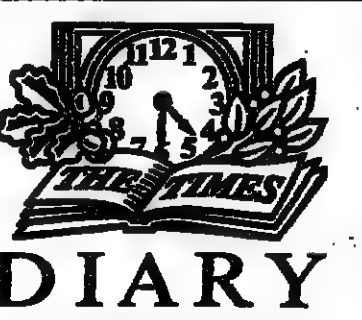
Seb's blue because nobody wants him or is it vice versa



Force of numbers

Nicholas Ridley received some unlikely support yesterday over his fears of German domination of Europe. With Helmut Kohl and Mikhail Gorbachev clearing the decks for a united Germany, Labour MEPs are becoming alarmed about the potential effect on the delicate balance of the European Parliament, in which at present Britain, France, Germany and Italy each has 61 seats. Brussels is buzzing with rumours that Kohl wants another 17 to represent the additional 17 million people of East Germany.

Labour MEP Alan Donnelly,



who leads the European parliament's committee looking into German reunification, says: "I am against that sort of increase. Any increase should be only nominal." Labour would also oppose German demands for an additional EC commissioner or extra voting rights in the council of ministers. However, Donnelly's conclusion is rather different from Ridley's: "Those who fear the economic strength of a united Germany should realise the one way to contain it is by a strong EC." Labour's traditional concern for the unemployed may also temper its enthusiasm for reunification. What will western diplomats in East Berlin do once their embassies cease to exist?

Royal rejection

A book about royal mistresses by a member of the royal family ought to be a hot property. Perhaps Princess Michael of Kent's effort was not hot enough, for Michael Joseph — for reasons it refuses to divulge — has not only rejected her manuscript but asked her to pay back an £80,000 advance.

"She is going to move to

another publisher, but we haven't approached anyone yet," says her literary agent, Michael Shaw. "I'm sure we will come to an amicable agreement about the advance."

One publishing house has expressed an interest in the royal mistresses — Headline. Its new non-fiction director, Alan Brooke, says: "Yes, I would certainly like to see the manuscript." So he should: it was Brooke, as managing director of Michael Joseph, who agreed to the princess's £80,000 advance.

Anons and rebels

The "alternative party of the year" takes place tonight on board a Thames floating drinkery to launch a collection of essays on post-Thatcher Britain entitled *The Alternative*. Not the sort of event at which senior Tories would wish to be seen, if only because of the picture of Mrs Thatcher proclaiming the words "We were wrong" on the invitation card. Ben Pimlott, the left-leaning editor, insists though that the launch will be an all-party affair. So which Tory politicians will be there rubbing their alternative shoulders with the likes of Labour's Bryan Gould and Bill Rodgers of the Liberal Democrats? Edward Heath? Michael Heseltine? Sir Anthony Meyer? "I can't possibly tell you," says Pimlott. "If you print their names you will scare them off."

Pinter preserved

Antonia Fraser and Harold Pinter deserted the literary salons of London yesterday for the South Downs — not for the fresh air but to receive honorary

doctorates of letters from Sussex University. Lady Antonia was honoured for her contribution to the writing of history, her reclusive husband for his contributions to the university. Foremost among these is a video of the first production of his short play *Mountain Language*, staged at the university last year with Pinter himself playing every part.

"It was an incredible performance. He did all the voices, male and female, with hardly any props. We were spellbound," says Frank Groversmith of the Faculty of English. What's more it is sure to become a collector's — or even a bootlegger's — item. "He allowed" the video recording on condition that it be kept in the library, used only by students and never shown outside," says a university spokesman. Despite the restrictions, Pinter's gift was more substantial than that of most other recipients of Sussex honorary degrees. Paul McCartney, the last so honoured, didn't even give them a song.

Unyielding Castle

Barbara Castle has snubbed two Labour prime ministers — by not attending either to introduce her when she takes her seat in the Lords today. The former cabinet minister says she has been "inundated" with requests from Labour people wanting to introduce her but has turned down the party's two most senior peers, Lords Wilson and Callaghan, in favour of Baroness Searles, a lifelong friend. "Although Jim sacked me, and we argued on so many issues, I do not bear a grudge," she says. So what can Lord Wilson have done to offend her?



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

THE MISSING MEMORANDUM

The idea that democratic government invariably means open government is an illusion. A cabinet or Whitehall department cannot sensibly conduct every conversation or exchange of views as if it were a public hearing. Newspapers may choose to pretend otherwise amid the exhilaration of a scoop, but they know that a degree of confidentiality is important in any organisation if colleagues are to treat frankly with each other. Open up one forum to public gaze and real argument will assuredly retreat further behind a wall of secrecy.

A sound democracy lays down the parameters of public debate and disclosure but also ensures that, within the bounds of confidentiality, the freest possible flow of diverse views can take place. This is clearly in the public interest. In terms of smooth government, therefore, the leaking of a memorandum purporting to give an account of Mrs Thatcher's meeting of academic and other specialists on German history is regrettable. This is not because it has embarrassed ministers but because it risks inhibiting informal discussion between the prime minister and non-political experts. That prime minister, particularly one so reputedly anti-German, should call this gathering for a long-term policy review was to her credit. She must now regret ever straying beyond her close coterie.

The damage was compounded by the sensational style in which the prime minister's foreign affairs secretary, Charles Powell, chose to record the discussion. The offending list of alleged German traits at the start of the memorandum was of attitudes which the participants were invited to discuss, not endorse. The meeting had been no secret. It was discussed at the Königsplatz Anglo-German conference in April and, as the prime minister said in the Commons yesterday, formed part of the background of the speech which she gave in the presence of Chancellor Kohl. What should have been private were the discussions that preceded its drafting.

There is only one response to this incident. A safe rule for any political discussion is that

what is put on paper is on some sort of "record" and at risk of disclosure. This document, explosive language and all, was sent by Mr Powell round the private office network, to the Treasury and the British embassy in Bonn. Students of modern Whitehall will say that he might as well have sent it to the Press Association.

But what are the obligations of newspapers in receipt of such material? Is their job — in this case that of the *Independent on Sunday* and *Der Spiegel* — to look at the document, say "Tut tut, how could Mr Powell be so indiscreet; we must protect the public from his indiscretion!" and throw it in the wastepaper basket? Should newspapers go further and weigh the future for Anglo-German relations of this seminar, act as arbiters on Downing Street activities, mediate between the business of government and the information of democracy?

There are times when newspapers should adopt a self-denying ordinance about publication: national security or threats to the lives of individuals are obvious examples. The Chequers seminar was not such a case. For newspapers to play the part of politicians and guard political flanks is the thin end of a dubious wedge. The purpose of a newspaper is to pass on to its readers information that it has received where that information is true and of assistance to readers in forming judgments about public affairs.

Mrs Thatcher said yesterday that, whereas she has been accused of being isolated, she is now being unfairly criticised for consulting with people outside government. Nor should she conclude that such seminars must be abandoned as a result. She should merely ensure that her aides, if they must put their thoughts on paper, do so accurately and with common sense. She should also be more discreet in her own views on Anglo-German relations. Had it not been for the Ridley affair and the wide publicity given to her scepticism towards German unity, the Chequers memorandum might have been discarded as an aberration. The context made it news and Mrs Thatcher's views are part of the context.

THE POLISH QUESTION

The faces at the Paris window of yesterday's "two plus four" conference on German reunification were Polish. Unless Europe is careful, the German Question may soon become the Polish Question. Last night came news that all parties, including the Poles, would be satisfied with a treaty to guarantee the Polish-German border to be ratified immediately after German reunification. Other aspects of Polish-German relations could await a later, more comprehensive treaty. But the case is not yet closed.

Mrs Thatcher has long pressed upon Presidents Gorbachev and Bush the right of the Poles to enjoy secure borders with a united Germany. Thanks to her, Warsaw's interests have not been forgotten. Chancellor Kohl can legitimately deny that he has ever entertained territorial ambitions. The two German parliaments have declared that the present border is inviolable. Herr Kohl himself, who looks likely to win the all-German election next December, has promised that after reunification the new Germany will negotiate a treaty with Poland. What more, the Germans ask, do Poles want?

The answer is that Poles want Herr Kohl to ignore the claims of millions of Germans expelled from Silesia, Pomerania and Prussia after the Soviet armies arrived in 1944. Put so baldly, as is rarely the case in diplomatic communiqués, the Polish demand is no longer easy for a German Christian Democrat to satisfy. Extreme German nationalism has lost its appeal in the past six months, because Herr Kohl is now delivering something that most Germans never thought they would live to see. But Poles are concerned that Germans would soon return to ancestral estates in Poland to claim their property, as is happening in East Germany. Few Poles fear the German army, but many believe that, given the chance, the Germans will buy them out.

To renounce utterly the borders of 1937 would require a reversal of decisions by the West German constitutional court in Karlsruhe.

The court's rulings have established that the old Reich still exists as a legal entity, and will continue to do so until a new peace treaty formally ties up the loose ends of the second world war. No such general treaty is likely.

Nobody who knows the Federal Republic's legal system can doubt the benevolent intentions of the judges of Karlsruhe. Yet their refusal to legitimise the arbitrary post-war dispensation in central Europe could become an impediment to future tranquility. The Reich of 1937 must be laid to rest. Only German judges can drive a stake through its heart.

The other Polish demand, for a treaty before German unification, may be impractical as the Germans claim; but there is no reason why the newly sovereign German legislature should not ratify the existing borders in short order. To reassure the Poles, the Big Four should retain some occupation rights for as long as Polish-German negotiations might take.

There remains the delicate question of reparations, which Herr Kohl clumsily brought into the open last February. Potential Polish claims could run into hundreds of billions of D-marks. Germans are understandably anxious for Warsaw to declare a moratorium before giving the Poles what they want. The Polish state should renounce its own claims, in return for writing off existing Polish debts. Individual cases could be dealt with on their merits in German courts, where other victims of the Nazis have generally had fair treatment.

Many Germans fear a further huge influx of Polish immigrants after reunification. The long-term answer is, of course, to make Poland a member of the European Community, so that migrant Poles are evenly spread throughout Western Europe. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish premier, should be prepared to agree to reasonable limits on Polish immigration to Germany in return for secure Polish borders. The Polish question must not be ducked, but only the Germans and the Poles can answer it for the rest of Europe.

FRENCH LESSON FOR THE LAW

There is now a growing uncertainty about the efficiency and fairness of the English system of criminal justice. Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan police commissioner, has done a significant service in his interview with *The Times*, published today, by his suggestion that the French prosecution system may have lessons for England and Wales (less so for Scotland). He is not suggesting that English prosecution procedures should imitate the delay and secrecy which sometimes mar French justice. He meant the institution known as the *juge d'instruction* or, in slang, the *petit juge*, the examining magistrate.

In France all criminal investigation before trial is supervised by an official who is technically a member of the judiciary. He (or increasingly she) takes charge of the case either from the outset or, in serious crime, after a short interval. The examining magistrate, even interrogates a suspect and witnesses, even confronting them with each other if he thinks fit. In principle, the magistrate's job is to decide where the truth lies. He can instruct the police to pursue whatever lines of enquiry emerge from these interrogations, changing tack if necessary.

In England these decisions are left to the police, with consequences which sometimes tend to divert the course of justice. In notorious cases detectives are under great pressure to get a conviction and the search for "what actually happened" can be forgotten. The English system is open to abuse where confessions are concerned. There is at least in theory an attractive fairness and objectivity in the French approach.

The Crown Prosecution Service has now been operating long enough to see whether it

has come up to expectations and the consensus is that it has not. The government working group on the CPS is to consider recent severe criticisms made by a Commons select committee. It should treat the mismatch between the CPS and the police as fundamental. The fault is not resentful policemen or incompetent lawyers but bad design of the relation between detection and prosecution. To involve lawyers much earlier in the investigation would be a move towards the French system. The CPS would begin to tell the police what sort of evidence to look for, what further forensic tests to run, what kind of questions to put to witnesses.

The CPS lawyers should be able to question suspects and witnesses themselves. As they would ultimately be responsible for the way the case was to be presented in court, they would come to direct the course of the enquiry as a whole. With the addition of judicial oversight, they would thus become examining magistrates, English *juges d'instruction*.

At present the police have to anticipate the likely requirements of the CPS, which has begun to assume some of the screening and filtering functions performed by magistrates in preliminary committal proceedings. In far too many cases — some 130,000 last year — the service decided not to let a prosecution go any further because the evidence was not good enough or of the wrong sort. There must be better ways of improving the CPS than by further criticism or by simply pouring in more money and lawyer-power. There must be better ways of associating the police with the CPS and with the conduct of the eventual trial. The commissioner's suggestion is a fertile one.

Wishful thinking about defence

From Admiral of the Fleet
Sir Henry Leach

Sir, Less than a year ago no one would have conceived that events in Eastern Europe, and indeed in the Soviet Union itself, could have moved in the direction and at the pace that has recently occurred. Released from long years of repression, it is small wonder that the people in the countries concerned should indulge in initial euphoria.

But you cannot run a country on euphoria; like a vacuum it needs to be replaced by something more substantial. Already we are seeing increasing signs of anarchy creeping in. It is to be hoped that in due course wisdom and administrative prudence will reassert themselves. Meanwhile the situation is, at best, unstable.

More disturbing and still more surprising is that this euphoria has spilled over to the West and particularly to the UK. Already loose talk is rife that there is no longer a threat and that consequently the armed forces can be enormously reduced. Experienced men endowed with intelligence if not with statesmanship proclaim these things on television and radio and a glib public laps them up.

So too, apparently, do ministers. Backed by greed to acquire big money quickly (and so alleviate the burden of the poll tax) the temptation to cut the services arbitrarily and ruthlessly becomes irresistible.

Events that can change so quickly for the better can change for the worse with equal rapidity. Forgotten, too, is the inconvenient truth that we are now facing a situation of instability which is unparalleled since 1939 — and that for all its unpleasantness and suspicion we have, for the past 45 years, enjoyed a position of confrontation which we in the West had learned how to handle and which was relatively stable.

This is, therefore, a plea for

statesmanship. If affairs to the East develop as they seem likely to (and as I fervently hope they will) of course there will need to be a significant adjustment to our defence posture, including reductions. But the responsible way ahead today is to dwell on a statesmanlike pause, to await confirmation of developments which, it is to be hoped, will validate assumptions. It is not to fly in the face of history.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY LEACH,
Winston Lodge,
Winston,
Winchester,
Hampshire,
July 13.

From the General Secretary of the
Marine Society

Sir, May I add to Admiral of the Fleet Lord Leach's thought-provoking letter (July 6)? While ships, naval or commercial, are built and equipped in months, it takes years to train the manpower needed to operate them. It is to be hoped therefore that the Government, when considering the Royal Navy in its defence review, will heed the lesson learnt by the UK-registered fleet which is now short of qualified officers as a direct result of minimum recruitment in response to the shipping recession of the past decade.

A thorough assessment of all the roles undertaken by the Royal Navy in maintaining peace and the defence of our maritime communications is essential before adjusting recruitment targets. It is easy to stop recruiting but hard to re-start as confidence is lost, and no one can predict total harmony between human beings on this planet nor the resolution of every difference round a table.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD FRAMPTON,
General Secretary,
The Marine Society,
202 Lambeth Road, SE1,
July 9.

Farming services

From the Director-General of the
Country Landowners Association

Sir, Your leading article, "A fair and CAP-free land" (July 13), suggests that "planning regulations... should... encourage farmers to become custodians of the countryside".

Unfortunately, with the best

will in the world, planning regulations cannot encourage. They are negative and they discourage — which is sometimes useful but not what is needed here. The initiative must come from landowners and farmers. They are independent, self-employed businessmen. That is what they should remain. That is why the Country Landowners Association has proposed that owners and farmers should provide environmental land management services (Elms) under contract to whoever wants to buy them. The customers could be private persons, local conservation groups, recreational organisations, local authorities or central government and its agencies.

As examples, owners would maintain habitats, provide leisure facilities, improve local landscapes, co-operate in making new roads environmentally acceptable and enter into agreements with central government and the national conservation bodies for works of environmental enhancement meriting the expenditure of Government money.

Owners would have to be paid for their services but a better countryside and an improved rural environment do not come free.

For their part, the purchasers of Elms would demonstrate by spending money, or withholding it, which parts of the rural environment mattered to them.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES DOUGLAS,
Director-General,
Country Landowners Association,
16 Belgrave Square, SW1,
July 13.

Computer education

From Mr Philip Virgo

Sir, If our education system reflected the intentions of Mother Nature (July 13) girls should excel in computing even in co-educational establishments.

The best correlation of computing ability with any traditional educational qualification is with performance at O-level English language.

The ability to parse sentences and construct grammatically correct arguments is closely related to the disciplines of commercial computer programming. The mastery of calculus is not.

There is some evidence that even the logical abilities used in the most technical areas of programming, like so-called "mathematically provable software", may be better developed by the study of Latin than by that of linear mathematics.

Your report that too few girls are taking up jobs in computing (July 10) reflects a very serious situation. The range and variety of careers offered by computing and IT (Information Technology) should be of natural interest to the majority of girls.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP VIRGO
(Vice-Chairman,
Professional Board,
British Computer Society),
2 Eastbourne Avenue, W3.

Identifying palaces

From Mr Nicholas Jenkins

Sir, Your Diary piece on a new corporate identity for historic royal palaces (July 12) implied that the problem can be solved by the overall application of the ubiquitous logo. Whilst such devices do play an important part in anchoring peoples' perceptions, they can only ever be a pivot around which more important considerations can revolve.

Being the consultant involved, I can assure the faint-hearted that the palaces will retain their individual historic personalities, that their best aspects will be enhanced and awareness of some of their lesser known qualities will be increased.

The imposition of the dead hand of an inflexible corporate identity is not what we have in mind.

Legal costs

From Mr Charles Martin

Sir, Mr A. Wigram's letter (July 11) seeks to suggest reforms to the legal system particularly relating to the question of legal costs based upon what are clearly his own experiences of a very limited and unrepresentative group of solicitors, namely those situated within the City of London.

The catastrophic effect on small firms and private individuals could quite easily be avoided by shopping around; several other solicitors would be happy to undertake their work at more competitive charges. The fact that there are no scale charges means that some firms do charge far less than others and I would, of course, argue that there is no "magic" to being represented by a City firm.

Mr Wigram also seems to have ignored the fact that overheads have increased considerably in the last few years and this will of course affect solicitors far more in areas such as the City of London where rents are no longer anything like they were five to six years ago.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MARTIN,
Ian Guyst & Co (Solicitors),
Edinburgh House,
40 Great Portland Street, W1,
July 11.

Setting remuneration for legal aid

From Mr M. B. Lewis

Sir, What Mr Wigram omitted to point out is that as far as the courts are concerned, anyone who can demonstrate a reasonable fluency in English and a respect for the court system has a right to make an application for an audience before a judge in both the county or high courts; a point rarely disclosed by members of the legal profession.

I have had the court's indulgence to act on behalf of my own limited company and all that was required was a resolution to that effect, passed by the directors and a simple application to the court.

No litigant should feel afraid to make this application and act on his own as recent cases have proved. Just take care, don't trust the opposition and spend some time in the local reference library.

Yours faithfully,
M. B. LEWIS,
Moor End,
Etherley Moor,
Bishop Auckland, Durham,
July 11.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Community care's ups and downs

From the Chairman of Durham
Health Authority

Sir, The recent Royal Assent to the NHS and Community Care Act emphasises again the policy of moving into the community from long-stay hospitals some patients with mental handicap, a policy which has been the subject of much criticism as a cost-cutting measure not related to the quality of care of the patients. However, as a new chairman of a health authority, I have been particularly impressed by the results.

Since 1986 Durham Health Authority has been implementing the policy of the Northern Regional Health Authority, aimed at transferring a small number of patients to selected community placements, with appropriate transfer of funds.

In collaboration with Durham County Council and a representative charity we have established since 1988 a system of monitoring the quality of care of those 35 patients so transferred, with the aim of ensuring that the standards in the community were at least as good as those experienced previously in the hospital. We have demonstrated that there is a high quality of life for the patients in their new environment and that, with a very few exceptions, none wishes to return to hospital.

The Durham Health Authority therefore commends the scheme to others concerned and suggests that the early criticism has been answered.

Yours faithfully,
J. I. CLARKE, Chairman,
Durham Health Authority,
Appleton House,
Lanchester Road, Durham,
July 13.

From Mr Jerry Westall

Sir, Your Social Services Correspondent reports today (July 13) that the junior health minister, Stephen Dorrell, does not think there is evidence to support the view that "excessive vigour" in closing hospitals for the mentally ill has helped to cause the problem of homelessness.

Organisations assisting the homeless, such as St Mungo's and the Salvation Army, have noted an increase in the mentally disturbed in their clientele from some

10 per cent five years ago to 50 per cent today. This may not prove that the policies of the Government as regards closing mental hospitals have been too vigorous but it makes one consider the possibility.

To gain firm evidence research is required. Professor Kathleen Jones completed a report in 1988 on stage one of a schizophrenia tracer project of 749 ex-patients from mental hospitals in London and the North of England. She found 73 per cent were either in their own home or with a relative. Others were in hostels, night shelters or had been discharged to no fixed abode.

Proposals put to the Department of Health to proceed with this vital research were turned down. One wonders if this was not a neat way of avoiding the production of evidence that might question the conventional wisdom.

More immediately, there are proposals to bring forward the closure of Friern Hospital in north London from 1993 to 1991.

Yours faithfully,
JERRY WESTALL (Research and Communications Officer),
National Schizophrenia Fellowship,
28 Castle Street,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey,
July 13.

From Lord Allen of Abbeydale
and Baroness Seear

Sir, Your leading article on community care (July 12) is timely. In our view it will be a disaster if the community care programme is delayed as is now apparently the Government's intention. Expectations among carers have been raised and local authority plans have been formulated. Any failure to go ahead now will inevitably cause considerable hardship.

The infirm and the handicapped, and the carers on whom the burden of caring falls, lack political muscle, but if their essential needs continue to be neglected in many cases neither the cared for nor the carers will survive.

Yours faithfully,
ALLEN OF ABBEYDALE,
SEEAR,
House of Lords,
July 12.

Selecting a surgeon

From Mr Russell Vallance

Sir, John Spiers of the Radical Society as an aside comment on the Prince's fall (July 12) suggests that the names of surgeons specialising in numbers of operations and outcomes be widely circulated in the interest of consumer choice.

If the enthusiasm of sales representatives from pharmaceutical and medical equipment companies could be restrained and if the tidal wave of junk mail time-share offers and investment opportunities could be held back, then perhaps surgeons would feel easier about their personal details being made available.

But Mr Spiers picks a bad example by mentioning orthopaedic surgery. Usually half of an orthopaedic surgeon's work involves accident cases. And if you have suffered multiple fractures in a car accident, you tend not to want to browse through the track records of orthopaedic surgeons before making an informed choice as to who you would like to operate.

And how would the "outcome" of an operation be evaluated? And by whom? How would Mr Spiers rate an operation to treat bone cancer in a child against a hip replacement for an elderly arthritis patient? Or the repair of damaged muscles in a professional athlete against the rectification of a baby's club foot?

Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL VALLANCE (Director),
The Wishbone Appeal,
British Orthopaedic Association,
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.

Old and rheumatically

From Dr Maciej Brzeski

Sir, Your report (Science and Technology, July 12) that ancient Egyptians suffered from both osteoarthritis (OA) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Whilst OA is globally well documented in antiquity, definite RA is only known since 1785.

Unlike many other common diseases it is not represented in earlier art or literature. It is often considered to be a "modern disease" of industrialisation and of conurbations, caused or triggered by environmental toxins or infectious agents. The rarity of RA in rural but not urban black populations in South Africa is cited to support this view.

Despite the plenitude of skeletal material from ancient Egypt, no convincing evidence of RA exists. Recent research indicates that RA may have existed in Indian tribes in West Kentucky and Alabama as long ago as 2500 BC. RA may thus be ancient, but like tobacco, the potato, and Dvorak's 9th symphony, from the New World.

Yours sincerely,
MACIEJ BRZESKI,
Royal Infirmary, Glasgow,
Centre for Rheumatic Diseases,
Glasgow G4 0SF,
July 12.

Speedier conservation

From Sir Hector Monro, MP for
Dumfries (Conservative)

Sir, I note that Lord Blakenham and his colleagues (July 16) want to "help" the Government over the Environment Protection Bill. Their proposal is one for further delay and uncertainty.

Whatever the White Paper may say it will not contradict the view that the present NCC (Nature Conservancy Council) will be much more effective when run independently with England, Wales and Scotland, with a scientific overview. There is, also, the exciting concept of "Scottish heritage". The sooner that can be in place the better, combining NCC Scotland and the Countryside Commission for Scotland.

For over a year we have been awash with committees, inquiries and papers. Now is the time for action and passing the Bill will be a major step forward for conservation. Let's get on with it and have stage one in place by April 1991.

Yours etc.,
HECTOR MONRO,
House of Commons,
July 16.

Not street-wise

From Mr O. D. H. Clauson

Sir, Now that the Americans are driving on the left-hand side of the road, when will the rest of the world follow British practice? Or did you print the picture of the Golden Gate bridge (Saturday Review, July 14) back to front?

Yours faithfully,
O. D. H. CLAUSON,
Applethorpe,
Ogbourne St George,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
July 16.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 17: Mr Anthony Durant, MP (Vice-Chairman of the House) received in audience by The Queen and presented Addresses from the House of Commons to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

Lieutenant-General H Y La R Beverly received by The Queen upon his appointment as Commandant-General of the Royal Marines.

Mr Justice Mantell was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

The Crown Prince of Thailand had the honour of being invited to lunch with The Queen.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave an Afternoon Party in the garden of Buckingham Palace for the Royal Warrant Holders' Association.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and The Princess of Wales were present.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms and The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard were on duty.

The Band of the Welsh Guards played selections of music during the afternoon.

The Queen held a Council at 6.15pm.

There were present: The Right Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP (Lord President), The Right Hon Tom King, MP (Secretary of State for Defence), The Right Hon Nicholas Scott, MP (Minister of State, Department of Social Security), and the Right Hon John Patten, MP (Minister of State, Home Office).

Peter Lilley, Esquire, MP, was sworn in as a member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, received the Seals of Office as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and President of the Board of Trade, took the Oath of Office and kissed hands on appointment.

Mr Geoffrey de Deney was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister), and First Lord of the Treasury had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chairman of the Inquiry into British Housing, this morning chaired the 5th Anniversary Meeting at the Travellers Club.

Subsequently, His Royal Highness, Master, attended a lunch at Trinity House.

Brigadier Clive Robertson was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening opened the Queen's Award for Export and Technology exhibition, at the Design Council, Haymarket, London W1.

Major Sir Guy Acland, Bt and Lieutenant-Commander Malcolm Sillars, RN were in attendance.

Today the Duchess of York opened the new Dorset Children's Centre in Dorchester.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Dorset (The Lord Digby).

Miss Lucy Manners and Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton were in attendance.

The Prince Edward, Patron, this evening attended the Cambridge Youth Theatre's production of "Crazy Jane" at The Junction, Cambridge.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

This morning The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, visited the Hanford Group, Child Okeford, Blandford, Dorset.

Afterwards Her Royal Highness attended a luncheon given by the Somerset Light Infantry Headquarters, Taunton and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Somerset (Colonel Walter Luttrell).

In the afternoon The Princess Royal visited Swindon and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Wiltshire (Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs).

Her Royal Highness visited the Green Hut, Gorse Hill and the Picheurst Community Centre and opened the new Church Room.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
July 17: Mr A D Garrett, Deputy Master, the Royal Mint, today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and presented a gold commemorative coin.

Sir Brian Nicholson, Chairman, The Post Office, also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty and presented an album of commemorative stamps.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 17: The Duke of Gloucester today visited the East of England Agricultural Show, Peterborough and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire (Mr Michael Bevan).

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 17: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master, this morning attended the Annual Service for the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George at St Paul's Cathedral.

Mr Andrew Palmer was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent today named the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's new Mersey Class lifeboat "Doris M Mann of Amptulph" at Wells-Next-the-Sea, Norfolk.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Norfolk (Mr Timothy Colman).

Mrs Peter Troughton was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
July 17: Princess Alexandra was present this evening at a Gala Concert, held in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association of which Her Royal Highness is Patron, in the Chapel of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and afterwards attended a Reception on board the Cutty Sark.

Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the 50th anniversary parade of the Duxford Veterans' Association at the Aldershot Military Stadium at 2.30.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will attend the Royal Tournament at Earls Court at 2.10.

The Princess of Wales will present The Sunday Times/Royal Fine Arts Commission Award at Spencer House, St James's, at 11.30; and, as Patron of the British Deaf Association, will attend a dinner at Hatfield House at 8.00 to mark the centenary of the association.

The Duchess of York, patron, will visit Carr-Gomm's Croydon house, 12 Campbell Road, Thornton Heath, at 10.30.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the National Association of Victims Support Schemes, will visit Textile Victim Support Scheme, 138 High Park Street, at 9.50; will attend the Liverpool

Polytechnic Degree Awards Ceremony in Liverpool Cathedral at 10.40; and will attend a children's open day at Eggesford Manor, Nottinghamshire, at 2.40 organised by Nottinghamshire Constabulary to mark their 150th anniversary.

Princess Margaret, as President of the Royal Ballet, will attend a performance by the Royal Ballet School at Holland Park Open Air Theatre at 7.50.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester will visit the East of England Show, Peterborough, at 10.15.

The Duke of Kent, as President of the RNLI, will visit lifeboat stations at Padstow, Cornwall, at 9.35; Port Isaac at 11.00; Bude at 11.45; Appledore, Devon, at 1.30; and Lifford, at 2.25; and, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, will take the salute at the evening performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court at 7.15.

Prince Michael of Kent, patron, will attend a council meeting of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, at 11.30.

Birthdays today

Mr Kenneth Armitage, sculptor, 74; Lady Bingley, social worker, 63; Mr Edward Bond, playwright and dramatist, 68; Mr Richard Branson, chairman, Virgin Group, 40; Sir Anthony Cox, architect, 75; Mr G.H.G. Doggart, former headmaster, King's School, Bruton, 65; Sir William Doughty, chairman, North West Thames Regional Health Authority, 65; Viscount Esler, 77; Mr Nick Faldo, golfer, 33; Senator John Glenn, former astronaut, 69; Professor

H.L.A. Hart, QC, former principal, Brasenose College, Oxford, 83; Mr David Hemery, athlete, 46; Miss Elizabeth Jennings, author, 64; Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly, 75; Mr Denis Lillie, cricketer, 41; Mr Anthony Mann, publisher, 60; Mr Richard Pasco, actor, 64; Sir Robert Speed, QC, former Counsel to the Speaker, 85; Sir James Stormonth Darling, former Director, National Trust for Scotland, 72; Lord Strathclyde, Dr B.C.L. Weedon, former vice-chancellor, Nottingham University, 67; Mr Yevgeny Yevtushenko, poet, 57.

Latest wills
Lieutenant Colonel John Richard Guy Staines, of Collier, Oxford, 83; Mr David Hemery, athlete, 46; Miss Elizabeth Jennings, author, 64; Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly, 75; Mr Denis Lillie, cricketer, 41; Mr Anthony Mann, publisher, 60; Mr Richard Pasco, actor, 64; Sir Robert Speed, QC, former Counsel to the Speaker, 85; Sir James Stormonth Darling, former Director, National Trust for Scotland, 72; Lord Strathclyde, Dr B.C.L. Weedon, former vice-chancellor, Nottingham University, 67; Mr Yevgeny Yevtushenko, poet, 57.

Kathleen Collier, of Newtown, Powys, left estate valued at £1,880,377 net. She left £83,650 and some effects to personal legatees, her late husband's family and the RSPCA, £500 to St David's Church, Newtown, and the residue equally between the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust and the National Trust.

Dorothy Prestwich Maslin, of Sutton, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,629,110 net.

Other estates include (net, before payment of debts): Mrs Kathleen Brooks, of Barton Harthorne, Buckinghamshire, £614,945.

Baroness Castle of Blackburn

The life barony conferred upon the Right Hon Barbara Anne Castle has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baroness Castle of Blackburn, of Ibsstone in the County of Buckinghamshire.

Baron Porter of Luddenhall

The life barony conferred upon Sir George Porter, OM, has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Porter of Luddenhall, of Luddenhall in the County of Kent.

Elections

Mr Jack Apfel, Mr David Cradginton, Mrs Jennifer First and Mr David J. Wilkins have been elected to the executive council of the British Diabetic Association.

OBITUARIES

Madge Garland, fashion editor of British Vogue and first professor of fashion at the Royal College of Art, died aged 92 on July 15. She was born in Melbourne, Australia, on June 12, 1898.

LADY Ashton, better known as Madge Garland, nee McHarg, was the friend of writers and artists, she was one of Cecil Beaton's earliest subjects and was painted by Marie Laurencin. She had great charm and elegance, and an old-fashioned, well-bred manner that belied her determination and professionalism. She was no society featherhead, but a key figure in the history of British fashion journalism, the British fashion industry, and the training of fashion designers. A pioneer career woman, she neither exacted nor received the credit she deserved for her achievements and was not even included in Who's Who.

Her father's business was exporting to Australia and she was born in that country. But she was educated at home in London, in St John's Wood, before going to the International School in Paris in the years leading up to the first world war. In Paris she discovered the arts that were to be the pleasure and business of her life — paintings, travel, haute couture. She was not happy in her family life, and took off as soon as she was of age for an Earl's Court boarding house to earn her own living — an unheard-of step then for a girl who was a lady. Her fair prettiness and her always delicate health were compensated for by an iron will.

In 1922 she joined British Vogue, then in cramped quarters in Bream's Buildings off Chancery Lane, as receptionist and typist, while simultaneously taking a typing course. She was married, briefly, to Captain Ewart Garland (the father, by his second marriage, of the theatre director Patrick Garland). She became the protégée of Dorothy Todd, the formidable editor of Vogue, and their friendship inspired a famous parody of a famous line: "A Garland is a lovesome thing, Todd wot".

Dorothy Todd introduced a strong literary content to the magazine which was then more a society paper than a fashion bible, and commissioned articles and reviews from Virginia Woolf, Raymond Mortimer, V. Sackville-West, Aldous Huxley and Edith Sitwell. Virginia Woolf described in her diary a dinner party given by Todd and Garland in their flat in Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, where Rebecca West was a fellow guest: "Todd in sponge bag trousers; Garland in pearls and silk". In 1926 Condé Nast, disliking the bookish tone that Todd gave the magazine, which was losing money, sacked her. Todd threatened to sue, Condé Nast threatened to expose her "morals" and Todd went.

Garland left to go freelance, writing for Women's Wear Daily in the United States and the Illustrated London News and Britannia and Eve at home. In 1932 she returned to Vogue as fashion editor, bringing to British readers the Paris culture of Faith and Lolong, staying at the Ritz on her visits to the collections. She had a mannequin's figure and was able to buy her own clothes en soldes from

Schiaparelli and Chanel. The war, and the fall of Paris, put a stop to all that.

At home, she brought together the London Fashion Group (Hartnell, Stiebel, Molyneux, Peter Russell) and became merchandising manager for the Oxford Street store Bourne and Hollingsworth, doing some designing herself and commissioning from Hardy Amies when he was on leave. After the war she visited the United States to study ready-to-wear marketing methods on behalf of the British fashion industry, and was sent with £1,000 of government money to Paris, under the auspices of the Council for Industrial Design, to buy the accessories for the "New Look" — gloves, shoes and underwear — for British manufacturers to copy.

In 1947 the principal of the Royal College of Art, Sir Robin Darwin, invited her to found the first British school of fashion. As Professor Garland, she opened the school in a house in Ennismore Gardens, South Kensington, the following year. She had to invent, and then establish, a degree course. Finding that art teachers had no industrial experience, she brought in cutters and other professionals from the trade, and worked with Manchester textile manufacturers to get the materials and designs she needed. Gina Fratini and David Sassoon were among her most successful students. After the school's first full-scale show in 1956 she resigned her chair at the Royal College (she was succeeded by Janey Ironside).

In 1953 she married Sir Leigh Ashton, then director of

the Victoria and Albert Museum. The marriage lasted less than a year though they were not divorced until 1962, and she always retained the name Lady Ashton for formal purposes. During the 1960s she produced five books on fashion, beauty and the history of costumes. Her home was in Clarendon Road, Holland Park, where she proved she was also a talented gardener.

Her long old age — she passed her final years being cared for in a convent — were difficult for her. She was always pleased to meet new people, even when she was reduced to a fragile, exquisitely dressed bag of bones. With no home of her own to entertain in, she would escape from the nuns and give parties in friends' houses. She had spent all her life fighting and striving. The habit died hard, and so did she. Her sight failed, robbing her of what meant most to her — reading, travelling, pictures (she was a founder member of the Contemporary Arts Society).

Ivy Compton-Burnett had been a friend: "Ivy educated me," said Madge Garland. Madge, in her turn, educated her literary friends. Virginia Woolf consulted her about what to wear. She persuaded Ivy out of her habitual unrelieved black. She accompanied and advised Rebecca West when, at 87, the latter decided she needed a mink coat. These two indomitable, West and Garland, went on holiday to Spain together in their old age, and Rebecca West in 1977 described a copy of her Celebration to Madge Garland "who is still as exciting to meet as if she were the lovely stranger". That was true for all her friends.

Detail from a Cecil Beaton study of Madge Garland

ALISON LEGGATT

Alison Leggatt, British actress, died on July 15. She was 86. She was born on February 8, 1904.

ALISON Leggatt was a statuesque and remarkably funny deadpan character actress with a career in the theatre which stretched back to 1924, when she won the gold medal from Elsie Fogarty's Central School of Dramatic Art.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Norfolk (Mr Timothy Colman).

Mrs Peter Troughton was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK

July 17: Princess Alexandra was present this evening at a Gala Concert, held in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association of which Her Royal Highness is Patron, in the Chapel of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and afterwards attended a Reception on board the Cutty Sark.

Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

Today the Duchess of York opened the new Dorset Children's Centre in Dorchester.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Dorset (The Lord Digby).

Polytechnic Degree Awards Ceremony in Liverpool Cathedral at 10.40; and will attend a children's open day at Eggesford Manor, Nottinghamshire, at 2.40 organised by Nottinghamshire Constabulary to mark their 150th anniversary.

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Elections

Today's royal engagements

Birthdays today

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MADGE GARLAND

ALISON LEGGATT

ANDREW CALDECOTT

John Andrew Caldecott, CBE, chairman of M & G Group and a member of the Board of Banking Supervision, died on July 14 aged 66. He was born on February 25, 1924.

ANDREW Caldecott was one of those unsung heroes who make the City of London tick without ever grabbing headlines. When, in his early forties, he wanted to move from the legal profession into the financial world, he had the right personal contacts to smooth his path. But, once arrived, he quickly became recognised as one of the first people to call when a company felt it needed a lawyer on its board.

This process reached its zenith in his case when the governor of the Bank of England, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, personally recommended Caldecott for the Board of Banking Supervision, the body set up to monitor the provisions of the Banking Act. As such it has become the Star Chamber of the British banking industry, and Caldecott was one of its shrewdest and most respected judges.

The son of Sir Andrew and Lady Caldecott, he was educated at Eton and, after the second world war, at Trinity College, Oxford. Caldecott's wartime experience was to prove pivotal in his later career. He joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps, becoming a battalion adjutant at the age of 20. After graduating from Oxford, Caldecott qualified as a solicitor in 1951 and joined the firm of Druxes & Atlee. He was made a partner three years later, remaining with the firm until 1969.

By then he had begun to gravitate towards the City, joining the board of M & G, the unit trust group, in 1966, and the Equitable Life Assurance Society in 1968. Both needed him, not as a full-time executive, but as someone who could bring a lawyer's mind to bear on issues, analysing them dispassionately and spotting pitfalls. At Equitable Life, where Caldecott was president from 1976 to 1983, he earned admiration for piloting changes in the company's articles of association that accommodated the rights of holders of modern insurance policies without infringing the rights of existing policyholders. The Equitable Life board contained Bobbie Henderson of the merchant bank Kleinwort Benson and Robin Leigh-Pemberton, then of National Westminster Bank. Henderson brought Caldecott into Kleinwort's corporate finance division, where he did much to establish the group's presence in Japan.

He was a constant visitor to the Far East to further Kleinwort's interests there. In 1974, he became head of corporate finance, vice-president of the bank and a director of the holding company.

Meanwhile, he was progressing at M & G. The sudden departure of Edgar Palmountain in 1979 thrust Caldecott forward as chairman. In the next 11 years M & G's net earnings grew 10 times as its unit trust life insurance and pensions business blossomed.

At the same time, he had to act as go-between in the delicate changes in M & G's relationship with Kleinwort, in which the bank's shareholding rose from 52 per cent to 42 per cent and then fell to zero. In the early 1980s there were persuasive voices arguing that Kleinwort should take full control of M & G. Caldecott resisted that, and instead the bank bought Grieson Grant, the stockbrokers.

In 1983 Caldecott's reputation earned him directorships at Whitbread, Electronic Rentals Group and Blue Circle Industries, but three years later Robin Leigh-Pemberton plucked him out for the banking supervision role. He was appointed CBE in the last New Year's Honours for his contribution in that area.

He was an enthusiastic sportsman and lover of the country. He fished the Kennet regularly, and enjoyed walking, bird-watching, shooting and cricket. In town, he was a member of Boodle's and he followed the music of Shostakovich.

Andrew Caldecott is survived by his widow, Zita, three sons and a daughter.

THE heady scent of lilies and colour from fuchsias are creating a summer atmosphere at the Royal Horticultural Society's show, which opened yesterday in Westminster.

Many modern fragrant lilies are being shown by Burncoose and South Down Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall, including white 'Casablanca' and pale pink 'La Reve'. This exhibit has been awarded a gold medal. The popular 'Casablanca' is also being featured by Jacques Amand, of Stanmore, Middlesex, together with another popular scented variety, and one of the best garden lilies, crimson and white 'Stargazer'.

A large collection of fuchsias, many trained into standards or tree-like forms, has been staged by Mrs and Mrs R J Blythe, of Potash Nursery, Bacton, Suffolk. Among the many outstanding varieties in this gold-medal exhibit are new 'Ray Redfern' with single pale pink and white flowers in profusion, and the

semi-double deep and light pink 'L'Arlesienne'. New triphylla types, characterised by their bunches of long slim tubular flowers, include orange 'John Maynard Scales' and scarlet and orange 'Jacqueline', both making large bushy plants.

Dr H F Oakley, of Beckenham, Kent, an amateur grower of lilycates and angiosperms, is showing a range of summer-flowering species and hybrids. They are normally large plants, with big spreading leaves, taking up considerable greenhouse space. But Dr Oakley is breeding dwarf lilycates (he is the pioneer in this field) which should appeal to small-greenhouse owners. Some of these are on display, including *Lycaste Rachel* whose red-bronze three-petalled flowers have a cream to yellow centre.

In the RHS summer fruit and vegetable competition Mr J Uren, of Long Eaton, Nottinghamshire, has been awarded the Hogg medal for six dishes of fruit (gooseberries 'Lancashire Lad' and 'Careless', raspberry 'Malling Admiral', red currants 'Red Lake' and 'Laxton's

No 1', and black currant 'Ben Sarek'). The class for a collection of six kinds of vegetables has been won by Mr S Moorhouse, of Watstead, London (potato 'Kissey', onion 'Yellowstone', broad bean 'Hylon', carrot 'New Red Intermediate', celery 'Ideal' and unnamed seedlings of leeks).

In the British National Carnation Society's summer competition, Mr F C Smith, of Ferry Barr, Birmingham, has won a silver-medal card for best vase of six blooms of perpetual-flowering carnations. The variety, in the class for highly scented varieties, is 'Tony Langford' whose white and crimson flowers have a very strong fragrance.

Mr J W Radcliffe, of Romford, Essex, has been awarded a silver-medal card for the best vase of three stems of pinks. He achieved this with the most popular border pink of all time — 'Doris', with warm-pink flowers.

The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Central London, is open today from 10 am to 5 pm.

Antoine Watteau, painter, Nogent-sur-Marne, 1721; Paul Jones, naval adventurer, Paris, 1722; Jane Austen, Winchester, Hampshire, 1817; Benito Juarez, president of Mexico 1861-72, Mexico City, 1872; Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, dean of Westminster 1864-81, London, 1881; Don Carlos, pretender to the Spanish throne, Varese, Italy, 1909; Hermann Goerring, chief of the Reichstag, Berlin, 1891-1911, London 1911; Corneille Heymans, physiologist, Nobel laureate 1938, Knokke, Belgium, 1968.

Mr A.D.L. Dowler and Miss V.S.H. Trill. The engagement is announced between Andrew David Lindsay, son of the late Mr David Dowler and of Mrs David Dowler, of Hillingdon, Somerset, and Vanessa Sarah Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Trill, of Hatchford, Cobham, Surrey.

Mr D.A. Gibbon and Miss S.C. Masefield. The engagement is announced between David Andrew Gibbon, son of Mr and Mrs Windsor Gibbon, of Tongwynlais, Cardiff, and Sally Clark, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thorold Masefield, of the British High-Commission, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Mr D.A. Jago and Miss G.M.D. Maile. The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Jago, of Fulham, London, and Geraldine, daughter of Dr and Mrs Drayton Maile, of Frimston, Hampshire.

Mr J.P. Leatham and Miss A.M. Mallam. The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs R. Ludlam, of Widcombe, Bath, and Alexandra, younger daughter of Colonel and Mrs D.F. Mallam, of Amport, Hampshire.

Mr J.L.M. Marsh and Miss L.E. Richards. The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs S.A. Marsh, of Wadsworth, East Sussex, and Lucinda Emma, younger daughter of Mrs G. Richards, of Houndmills Place, Mark Cross, E Sussex.

Mr C. Richards, of Lower Hope Farm, Ullingswick, Hereford.

Mr T.D.L. Bird and Miss J.S. Holmes. The marriage took place on Saturday, July 14, at St George's Church, Benenden, of Mr and Mrs David Bird, of The Mall House, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, and Miss Joanna Holmes, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Holmes, of Woodside, Benenden, Kent.

Mr Brian Corby, Group Chief Executive of the Prudential Corporation Plc, was guest of honour at luncheon yesterday given by the Management Consultants Association, at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Mr David Miller, President of the Association presided.

Mr T.D.L. Bird and Miss J.S. Holmes. The marriage took place on Saturday, July 14, at St George's Church, Benenden, of Mr and Mrs David Bird, of The Mall House, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, and Miss Joanna Holmes, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Holmes, of Woodside, Benenden, Kent.

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LEGAL NOTICES

**BRITANNIC FINANCE TRUST
LIMITED**
(in members' liquidation)
Company number 317736

[illegible]

They do not feel that a claim for the return of the property will be successful in the absence of the documents. The company is said to use all its resources to run the business. It was incorporated in June 9, 1990.

Alan Rae Davies Jamieson
Leam Road, Leamington
CV32 5JH

THE MIDWINTER TRUST 1986
INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 96 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that the Liquidator of the above named Company is to be held at the offices of Messrs. S. J. Davies & Co., 100, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF on 31 July 1990 at 10.00 am.

STRACHAN BROTHERS LIMITED
IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION
Company number: 303302
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE LIQUIDATOR OF STRACHAN BROTHERS LIMITED
INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND
has been appointed by the court and is to be held at the offices of Messrs. S. J. Davies & Co., 100, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF on 31 July 1990 at 10.00 am.

They will be excluded from the proceedings and the company will be wound up before such debts are proved.

Dated 11th July 1990
R. S. Turner, Liquidator

All of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be published in the London Gazette, the Official Journal of the United Kingdom, on 27 July 1990. The High Court will then make an order to change its name to Freixi House, 10-12 Silver Street, London W1 5BE, on 27 July 1990. The Company will then be able to trade under its new name from 27 July 1990.

It is proposed to label all the securities of the Company as "Freixi House Securities of the Company situated at 10-12 Silver Street, London W1 5BE". The Company will also be able to trade under its new name from 27 July 1990.

Dated 12 July 1990
 H. Gaffney, Director

[illegible]

NOTICE AND **ADVICE** that the undersigned, **Robert Jamieson**, is a creditor and that a creditor who does not make a claim against the estate of **Robert Jamieson** will not be paid all its known creditors in full
8th July 1984
By **Robert Jamieson**
Liquidator

TRILLS (HOLDINGS) LIMITED
On members liquidation
Company number 21 6506
NOTICE OF THE FIRST MEETING OF TRILLS (H & T) LIMITED
On 5 July 1984 the company was put into liquidation. The undersigned, **John Lawrence**, is the liquidator and has the pleasure of announcing that the first meeting of the company will be held on **Monday 12th August 1984** at **10.30 a.m.** at the offices of **Mr John Lawrence**, **280 Kensington Road, London W14 6SP**. The business of the meeting will be to elect a liquidator and to consider the proposed liquidation of the company.

NOTICE ON INTENDING CREDITORS
In the matter of **Philip Sigmund**
Brook Farm Limited
No 3364 of 1984
In the matter of **Philip Sigmund**
Brook Farm Limited
No 3364 of 1984
With a view to the liquidation of the company with another trading as **Brook Farm Limited**, the undersigned, **John Lawrence**, has the pleasure of announcing that the first meeting of the company will be held on **Monday 12th August 1984** at **10.30 a.m.** at the offices of **Mr John Lawrence**, **280 Kensington Road, London W14 6SP**. The business of the meeting will be to elect a liquidator and to consider the proposed liquidation of the company.

26 Drumehurgh Gardens, Edinburgh EH6 7TH, was appointed as the liquidator of the Company. The liquidator, as he never served any notice of the date of the meeting, is not bound by the provisions of the Companies (Notice of Meetings) Regulations 1986. Therefore, the creditors of the company must claim against the company to the liquidator, at the above address, on or before 12th July 1990, for the last day for proving claims. The liquidator is not responsible for any loss sustained by creditors who fail to claim against the company and a creditor who fails to claim will not be entitled to the dividend.

ALAN J. GREENE, Jr.
Chairman
Liquidator

HUNTING FUR DISTRIBUTION
LIMITED
 (its immediate liquidation)
 Company number: 1417098
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS
OF THE COMPANY
HUNTING FUR DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
 On 5 July 1990 the company was placed into liquidation. Alan J. Greene, Jr. is the liquidator and Alan J. Greene, Jr. is the sole director of the company.
 28 Drummond Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7PH was appointed as the company's office.
 The liquidator is an ad hoc person and is not a company officer.

creditors of the company must file their claims with the liquidator against the company to the liquidator at the above address on or before 11.59pm on the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also warns notice that creditors who do not file their claims with the liquidator will not be included in the distribution.

NOTICE is also given that all known creditors in full.

8 July 1990

Donald Jameson
Liquidator

PRESTOL LIMITED

**NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF
FRISTON (HOLDINGS)
LIMITED**

On 6 July 1990 the company was placed into liquidation by the High Court Judge and Alan Ray Dalden Jamieson of Price Waterhouse Coopers as liquidator. The registered office of the company is at 15000 Highway 145, 7TH FLOOR, E145 7TH was appointed as liquidator by the shareholders pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986. The liquidator is the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim they have against the company to the liquidator, at the above address, by 24 August 1990 which is the last date for the submission of claims. The

[illegible][illegible]

6 July 1990
Alan Rice Chapter Jefferson
Laudador

Continued on page 31

CROSSWORD NO 2231

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

14 Turncoat (8)
15 Frenchwoman (6)
16 Not gregarious (7)

18 Fourpenny silver coin
21 Light toboggan (4)
22 Shoe cord (4)

21 Motion 22 Up to 23 Linn 25 bus
Under duress
4 Lode 5 Edge 6 Yardarm 7 Judiciously
14 Sly 15 Ormolu 19 Leidown 20 And
1 27 Bier

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Under duress
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1 27 Bier

Find time for the big picture show

Arguments aired in the Lords for hardening-up definitions of broadcasting "due impartiality" constitute a quite unnecessary attempt to close a stable door. The horse has not only bolted, it is also hobbled. This is not of itself a natural by-product of rapid broadcast expansion; plurality of programming should logically lead to greater forthrightness across the board. Lord Orr-Ewing, pressing for added restraint, himself acknowledged the point, only to draw back: "It could be that in five or ten years time, there will be enough channels to get overall balance, but it will be a long time before 50 per cent of the market is not in existing hands." So perhaps tighten the screw one last time.

Yet, in practice, pressure of existing competition, combined with the steady buffeting broadcasters have received from *A Question of Ulster* (1972), through *Real Lives* (1985) and on to *Death on the Rock* (1988), has already led existing hands to favour quick-fix news at the expense of the sort of current affairs that most worries Lord Orr-Ewing and his supporters.

There is no complaint here against the daily diet for what it is. Indeed, the best of the basic bulletins, the BBC's *Six O'Clock News*, is usually a model of uncluttered clarity. On a more extended plain, both *Channel 4 News* and *Newsnight* are increasingly nervous themselves to move beyond the day's obvious agenda, and add an oblique interest and insight. Yet seeing, say, John Simpson manfully trying to do justice to the complexities of some part of turbulent eastern Europe in a few sketched minutes reminds us how rarely today's viewers are allowed to stop and stare. As a consequence, reportage of the crumbling of the communist bloc has been less vividly peopled than was earlier work from Vietnam or Biafra.

Most of all, the occasional large-scale primetime plunge into a major topic seems now to elude television broadcasters. There is no shortage of topics, beyond the Grand European Debate that probably will now occur in the wake of the Ridley soul-searching. Often reporting of the new shape of eastern Europe settles back into the simple-minded reassurance that "western capitalism is winning". If so, at what cost to the self-liberated, and should they simply be expected to stew in the complexities of their victory? Then, on the domestic level, the degree of disrepair in our infrastructure bubbles up in news item after news item, but could stand the sort of long look that tries to quantify just

where the problems are and what might be done about them. On environmental issues, should we and others adopt a "no regrets" policy and, if so, just what does that mean, how is it to be priced and paid for?

The large-scale project is, in part, out of fashion because of the degree of broadcast risk involved. The producer of such programmes is like a conductor trying to steer an under-rehearsed band through an as yet unproven piece. There will be discordant notes, some wrongly played. Hence a preference for the sort of pre-cooked fare of which *Weekend World* made such a specialty, where the analytical boiling served to drain debate of all taste and flavour, the easier to reach safe harbour. But when issues are hotly contested then the heat should be visible on screen, no more so than when they concern our local futures, as well as our place in the world.

There is no serious shortage of existing hands willing to take on the task, and give the sort of devotion to major aspects of public policy that football commands almost routinely. True, those proven veterans, Day, Kennedy and Kee are now effectively removed from front-line broadcasting. But the Dimbleby family offers two candidates who would doubtless

scrap for the privilege; and behind them are many others who would pitch in, if only to question the growing assumption of a Dimbleby broadcasting dynasty. It will be said, too, that audience response will not measure up to the highest levels, perhaps a couple of million on either BBC2 or Channel 4, maybe five million on BBC1 or ITV. But these are the sorts of numbers most newspaper circulation managers would sit up and beg for. That is another good reason for broadcasters not to stay on the sidelines. "Existing hands" have no reason to leave the best times to the press. There is still a commanding position.

Of course, any such programme, forcefully produced, will be found by some to have kinks in it, to tilt this way or that. There is an added potential for embarrassment in that these are not neat issues as between parties; they cross party lines, which makes possible participants — *pace* Nicholas Ridley — nervous to speak out. That is the producer's headache. As to headaches felt by others, the answer lies in present and future time, as it always has. Broadcasting is a daily business. There is time enough for rebuttal and follow-up, if not today then tomorrow or in the days after.

BROADCAST

Brian Wenham

The fact that Shia Muslims could be running their own local radio or satellite television station in Britain within a few years, or that the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party could be advertising on television, is causing concern to the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard.

Bishop Sheppard is sounding a warning that the new freedom for religious broadcasting in the Broadcasting Bill is likely to be exercised by the more extreme groups, not necessarily Christians.

He is making it clear that the Church of England, with its commitment to keep ministries in all parts of the country, will simply not have the money to buy stations or advertise freely.

This issue of religious broadcasting has opened a wide schism between the bishop and some evangelical Christians, who regard his attitude as little short of "wet".

Bishop Sheppard has been confronted by the formidable combination of the evangelicals who dislike his support for the ecumenical movement and others who are passionate about free market economics. So far the battle has gone to the opponents.

The bishop and the Central Religious Advisory Council, which advises the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) and the BBC and of which he is chairman, were opposed to religious organisations being able to own their own television and radio stations.

In this, Bishop Sheppard is conservative. He holds to the Reithian principle that there should be a fair balance, carefully kept and monitored, representing religious bodies throughout the world. He argues that this is not possible if religious bodies can use money to buy stations or advertising space.

His opponents say that he is being too stuffy. Christians have to get off their knees and fight their good fight on the television screens. He does not believe they know the forces they are letting loose.

The strength of feeling was evident in the Lords committee stage of the Broadcasting Bill last week. Baroness Cox warned that the advisory council's multi-faith approach could diminish the specifically Christian input into broadcasting. She also said that if the churches were not as full as they should be, it might be because Anglicans in particular found it increasingly difficult



Defending the faith: the Bishop of Liverpool

The bishop preaches caution

Sheppard is worried that extremists may buy TV stations, John Lewis reports

cult to attend a church they saw as increasingly secular and politicised. The sting, however, came in her revelation that at least six important prayer groups were praying that the council should not have influence over the new broadcasting set-up. A wounded bishop wondered what they had been told about the council. He said at least one third of its members were evangelicals themselves and evangelists were indignant at the ill-informed critics.

Others, including the former Conservative party chairman, Lord Thornycroft, rushed to the defence of the

bishop and the council, but the reality is that the bishop has lost his first skirmish.

After initial resistance, the government has agreed that suitable religious organisations, under strict conditions that there must not be "improper exploitation" or abuse of other religions, will be able to own non-domestic satellite stations, cable television and local radio stations.

The new battle over religious advertising is not so clear cut. Up to now there has been a complete ban. Soon there will be no restriction. Religious groups will be able to advertise on the new Channel 3 (ITV) and Channel 5

programmes and all the others.

Last week Bishop Sheppard put down his own amendments to control advertising and admitted his fears. "The reality will be that the main-line churches — which are, and are likely to be, stretched to the limit to maintain a ministry throughout the country — are most unlikely to have substantial money to put into religious advertising. More marginal groups, which do not have such a network of ministry, are more likely to have some wealthy supporters who would be willing to put money into advertising."

"Some have dismissed as altogether unlikely the possibility of American-style religious advertising, which many have disliked and have felt was extremely damaging to the cause of true religion and unworthy of it. I am not so optimistic that it is such a simple matter. I know that members of the committee [of the Broadcasting Bill] are very concerned at the idea of a free-for-all. What about Northern Ireland if Ian Paisley and his church wish to make religious advertisements? What about a wealthy Shi'ite Muslim? What about other extreme groups in an era when religious fanaticism is growing?"

"We can have but a small list of religious bodies of which we disapprove. If the ITC [the Independent Television Commission, which is to take over the role of the IBA] tried to have a substantial list, I fear that it would find itself being taken to court."

Baroness Cox accused the bishop of trying some kind of censorship. It was also patronising — "I am sure unintentionally" — to suggest that people were excessively gullible.

Earl Ferrers, the home office minister, shared the bishop's concern there should not be abuse of religious advertising, but argued it would be unwise to pre-empt consultation already being carried out by the IBA. Drawing up the guidelines was a matter for the ITC. In a thin house in the early hours of the morning the bishop abandoned his amendment on the grounds that he had received some assurances.

His main hope, probably now lies in David Mellor, Mr Mellor is fierce in his dislike of the Moonies and other cults and, provided he is still in the job at the right moment, is certain to insist that the ITC makes its guidelines extremely tough.

Sowing seeds of trouble

Is the Bush war on drugs threatening press freedom?

FOR nearly 20 years, *High Times*, a New York-based monthly magazine, has kept ageing flower people informed about the changing rites of the drug culture, with a mix of anti-establishment opinion, advertisements for drug paraphernalia and market quotations of marijuana prices.

Buried on page 57 of a recent issue was an advertisement placed by the Seed Bank, a catalogue produced by a Dutch firm specialising in selling marijuana seeds. "We offer top hybrids and pure strains from all over the world," the advertisement promised.

Although not markedly different in tone from the sort of information about drug cultivation, the advertisement has put *High Times* at the centre of a controversy over press freedom. Federal prosecutors in New Orleans have launched an investigation into whether the magazine, which has a circulation of 250,000, violated drug laws in accepting the advertisement.

The inquiry has raised fears that freedom of the press will yield to President Bush's much-touted war on drugs. "What we have here is the justice department targeting a publication that is espousing a point of view that is counter to the war on drugs," said Jane Kirtley, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. The American press, she said, was not normally held responsible for its readers' behaviour.

Steven Hager, the editor of *High Times*, has no doubt that his publication is being persecuted for its unconventional views. He claimed that the government had been put up to the task by the petrochemical industry, which felt threatened by marijuana production. "Marijuana is the main competitor of the petrochemical industry," he said. "You could run every car in America on non-polluting hemp seed oil."

JAMES BONE



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A touch of angst

How has Germany's press treated the Ridley affair? Daniel Johnson investigates

The West German press reported the Ridley affair more in sorrow than in anger, but with also, more than anything, a note of condescension. In Moscow, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Mikhail Gorbachev were making history. "Germany and the Soviet Union stand before a new beginning," said the ponderous front-page headline of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Germany's leading quality newspaper. The curious tale of Mr Ridley's death rattle and the Chequers seminar was a comparative sideshow.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine* (circulation about 350,000) is normally lacking in news sense to a degree which is not wholly explained by afternooon deadlines. It carries no pictures on its front page, is edited by a collective of five formidable sober grandees, and is read by every German who matters.

But in this case it had scooped all its rancier rivals. Gina Thomas, a member of its three-person London bureau, had reported in detail on the Chequers seminar at the time. Although her brief is normally non-political — she writes mainly for *Feuilleton*, the paper's impressive daily cultural pull-out section — Miss Thomas moves on the inside track of London society in a way which would scarcely be possible for a British correspondent in Bonn. In a front-page leader on Monday, Ulrich Grudinski, her bureau chief, described "Ridley's foul" as a "turning point" in British attitudes to Europe.

This strength in depth, in stark contrast to British coverage of Germany until last year, enabled *Der Spiegel* (circulation about a million) to land another scoop at the weekend, by publishing on the same day as the *Independent on Sunday* a translation of Charles Powell's memorandum on the Chequers meeting.

The uniquely influential weekly news magazine was launched after the war, with British help, by Rudolf Augstein, the left-wing tycoon who still owns and edits it, and who has often denounced the Germans to their faces in terms which yield little to Mr Ridley. *Der Spiegel* is also the only German paper which interviews politicians with Dominic Lawson's rigour.

The most scandalous interview with Herr Kohl to date — and he gives plenty — have both been with English-speaking journals: *Newsweek* (in 1986, when Herr Kohl compared Mr Gorbachev to Goebbels) and the *Financial Times* (last year, when, to Mrs Thatcher's chagrin, he revealed his refusal to modernise Nato's short-range nuclear missiles).

Herr Augstein, an anti-militarist, German nationalist and Anglophile to boot, and his anonymous but well-informed London staff have given the Thatcher government a hard time for years.



More sorrow than anger: the German newspapers

'The tone is often of disappointed love'

But the prime minister knows that *Der Spiegel* matters, and grants the magazine regular interviews. West German television's best-known London correspondent is Peter Merseburger of *Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen* (Channel Two). Fair, knowledgeable and even wise, Herr Merseburger exudes a genuine affection for the British. In the past year, British television companies have given Germany saturation coverage, much of it superficial and banal. Only the BBC radio correspondents, especially Diana Goodman, have been able to match the quality of Germans such as Herr Merseburger.

Die Zeit (circulation about 450,000), the heavyweight weekly newspaper which is a kind of German equivalent of the pre-Road *Observer*, but is published on Thursdays, has yet to comment on the Ridley row. Its response will almost certainly be caustic.

Despite the good relations with Britain enjoyed by Theo Sommer, its editor, and its co-publishers, Countess Marion Donhoff and Helmut Schmidt, the former chancellor, *Die Zeit* has recently taken a fiercely critical line, not only on Mrs Thatcher, but also on the uncivilised British. The paper's tone is often that of someone disappointed in love.

Similarly sharp, although often witty as well, is Günter Nonnenmacher, the London correspondent of the *Frankfurter Rundschau* (circulation about 300,000), the German equivalent of *The Guardian*. Closer in politics to *The Independent*, the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, the Munich liberal daily, has published notably sober and neutral reports on the Ridley affair.

But the most aggressive coverage of the Ridley affair has come from the most conservative German dailies: *Die Welt* (circulation about 200,000), founded by the late Axel Springer as his ideological battering ram, and the same company's *Bild* (circulation six million), probably the largest-selling daily newspaper in the free world.

This duo approximates to a downmarket *Daily Telegraph* and an upmarket *Sun*. Uniquely, in the West German press, they have sister papers on Sunday. Whereas *Bild* achieves its huge sales by fitting into the strongly regionalised character of the German press — each major city or province has pages of local news — *Die Welt* is the only important German paper to be based in Bonn.

Until last year *Die Welt* was considered too deferential towards the Kohl government, but now it often attacks the German chancellor from the right. On Ridley, however, it went to town in Herr Kohl's defence.

On the Ridley story, *Bild* got the wrong end of the stick, republishing Nicholas Garland's *Spectator* cartoon, showing Ridley daubing a poster of Kohl with a Hitler moustache, on its front page, with the banner headline: "Maggie's minister compares Kohl with Hitler!"

In fact, of course, Mr Ridley did no such thing, and the Garland cartoon was satirising him. Who said the Germans have no sense of humour?

Ferment in the National Health Service over the past year has created new opportunities for the three weekly tabloid newspapers for general practitioners — *Doctor*, *GP* and *Pulse*.

General practitioners have turned to these publications more eagerly over the past year for information on the NHS White Paper, and to articulate their concern about the GPs' contract. Total readership of the three controlled circulation titles (mailed to all 35,000 GPs) has increased, and competition between them has become intense, with *GP* and *Doctor* doing particularly well. Readership is measured by the Joint Industry Committee of Medical Advertisers for Readership Surveys (Jicmars), on the basis of interviews with a thousand doctors over a 12-month period.

The latest interim Jicmars figures show that the Haymarket title, *GP*, which has mounted the most outspoken criticism of the contract, has done particularly well, leaping ahead of the previous market leader, *Pulse*, for the first time in seven years. *GP*'s editor, Stephen Lederer, says: "At 83 per cent we are ten points ahead, which is the biggest gap for ten years, and the highest score ever for such a publication."

But Morgan Grampian's *Pulse* refuses to be cowed by its rival's surge (its own circulation was down 1 per cent). Its editor, Howard Griffiths, says: "We believe we handled the GPs' contract far more responsibly. *GP* pandered to readers' prejudices. We felt the government had set its course, and it was foolish to suggest fighting for concessions." *Pulse*'s publishing director, John Bragg, insists that Morgan Grampian's own research shows the paper to be every bit as popular as it used to be.

Meanwhile, Reed Business Publishing's *Doctor* is coming up fast on the inside. It was redesigned and relaunched in January as a more upmarket title in direct competition to the other two. Like them, it has shuffled staff in an attempt to gain a stronger position; its new editor has signed up heavyweight writers, such as Dr John Marks, the retiring chairman of the British Medical Association, who is now a regular columnist. These changes are probably too recent to be reflected in the latest Jicmars figures, but even so, readership is up from 58 to 62 per cent.



Why doctors keep taking the tabloids

NHS changes have given new impetus to the medical papers' readership wars

Mr Lederer, who has been *GP*'s editor for a year, attributes his paper's success in that time partly to design. "All three are on coated paper with full colour on every page, but we're the prettiest," he says. The crucial factor, however, has probably been the paper's outright opposition to the GPs' contract.

"We started hitting the government and the contract very early: we were prepared to go in hard to attack a Conservative government, even though the established wisdom was that most of our readers voted Conservative. We ran a full tabloid campaign, with screamer headlines like 'Take That!' across five columns when the con-

tract details were published, and 'GPs Robbed Again!' with a cartoon of Mrs Thatcher as a thief when the government gave doctors less than the review body had recommended."

None of the GPs' tabloids has the high profile of *The Lancet* or the *British Medical Journal*. "We don't carry stories about sleeping position and cot death, which the nationals would pick up, because we don't publish original learned papers," Mr Griffiths says. But *GP* claims that in the last year it has broken several important stories which were subsequently taken up elsewhere.

All three tabloids carry a mixture of political, scientific

and financial news and features, plus a range of services to attract readers: *Pulse* offers a travel club, a wine club, insurance deals, and a direct selling operation for both medical and consumer goods. Scientific news presents by far the biggest challenge, Mr Lederer says. "It is extremely hard to get stories which are both newsworthy and highly accurate; easy to get stuff which looks sexy, but is wrong." Getting it right is partly a matter of how much the papers are prepared to invest in paying for good reporters and to keep a couple of doctors on staff, and for travel to conferences.

But all three — carrying 60 per cent to 65 per cent advertising — are profitable. How long they remain so will depend on how high they can keep their advertising rates, which in turn depend on readership. "Now the GPs' contract is in place we are much happier," Mr Griffiths says.

"This past year it has been a question of what you left out: now we are back to finding stories, and competing on a pure journalistic basis — looking for good exclusives. I am sure we will be able to recover our lead."

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Fact and fiction: the two faces of Vicki

Seven years ago, a 30-year-old woman named Vicki Morgan was bludgeoned to death in a run-down flat in Los Angeles. She had already known brief tabloid fame as the mistress of Alfred Bloomingdale, the department store heir: he had suffered a heart-attack in her bed, although he later died at home. Bloomingdale's wife, Betsy, was one of Nancy Reagan's closest friends, and the rumours of sex videos and a scorching memoir exposed cracks which threatened to shiver all the way to the top of that administration. There were many who felt that the death of Vicki Morgan was convenient.

Almost three years ago, a "walker" (an escort of high-society women) called Alfredo de la Vega died of gunshot wounds in his Los Angeles home. He came from one of the oldest families on the West Coast, and had known at least one president. Though it seemed an unlikely verdict, in the light of forensic evidence, the autopsy report decided he had committed suicide. Such a death was also perceived to be convenient.

This week American writer Dominick Dunne publishes a novel which concerns itself with these violent events. Though its title, *An Inconvenient Woman*, is a clear reference to the Vicki Morgan character (and is also used in the book to refer to that symbol of conspiracy theorists, Marilyn Monroe), for the purposes of his fiction Mr Dunne has wound de la Vega's story plausibly through Morgan's (it is extremely unlikely that the two ever met in real life). The motives for the two killings, fleshed out in credible prose, are similarly a creation of Mr Dunne's imagination. The outcome of the book is that two murderers escape retribution.

"This is the theme that comes into everything I write," Mr Dunne, aged 63, says. "This thing about people who go unpunished or underpunished, the whole justice system." Eight years ago, in the autumn before Morgan's death, Mr Dunne's only daughter, Dominique, was strangled by her ex-boyfriend, John Sweeney. Sweeney's subsequent term in prison lasted fewer than three years. Mr Dunne wrote an article for *Vanity Fair* magazine about that experience, in which he described how the coils of the legal system seemed designed to tighten around the victim's family rather than her killer. The bitter tale of that piece was "Justice," and its themes have haunted him ever since.

His new book is the third novel he has written since Dominique's death. The first, *The Two Mrs Grenvilles*, was based on a famous

Spurred by personal tragedy, Dominick Dunne writes novels based on true-life society murders. Fionnuala McHugh reports on a man with a dicey mission



Stranger than fiction: Dominick Dunne, in search of justice

1950s society murder. The killer in that book escapes public retribution, but kills herself years later, gnawed by guilt and loneliness. In his second book, *People Like Us*, a writer of profiles for a glossy magazine plots the death of his daughter's murderer, against the shenanigans of Manhattan high society. New Yorkers spent months trying to find real-life counterparts for the book's fictional characters, a game into which Mr Dunne refused to be drawn. It has been said — and Mr Dunne reluctantly agrees — that certain hostesses struck him off their dinner lists.

But the figure who was most painfully revealed in that novel was himself: the alcoholic writer separated from his wife, eaten up by fury and grief at the loss of his daughter.

Now there are the two murders of *An Inconvenient Woman*. Mr Dunne wrote a piece for *Vanity Fair* about the trial of Vicki Morgan's flatmate, who was convicted of her murder. The inept-

tude of the local police — who did not take any fingerprints at the scene, and who left the place wide open to anyone who felt like wandering in — only fuelled the whispers of conspiracy.

"I always felt that there was more to this than what we were being told. I grew to have great sympathy for the actual girl. If I'd been in her place at 17, poor, with a kid, and I got a chance to move out of it, you know what? I'd have done what she did too." As a result, he has made the Vicki character, whom he has called Flo, highly sympathetic, and has ignored some of the more seamy elements of her relationship with Bloomingdale ("I don't want to go into it, but it was a real dirty story").

"This is a novel, after all," he says. "I had my choices to make, and to me it became much more interesting if they actually loved each other."

Alfredo de la Vega was closer to home, literally, being an old friend of Mr Dunne's former wife. In the book he has been called Hector ("I don't like to say Alfredo, I say the real Hector, the real Flo"). Someone who happened to get into the house on the morning of his death told Mr Dunne about bullet holes in the mirror and coffee table, as well as the three in de la Vega's chest. "That's not how you kill yourself," Mr Dunne observes, although the coroner thought otherwise.

Mr Dunne flew to Los Angeles, where he had lived for 24 years, to write another *Vanity Fair* piece on the death, and says he met a wall of silence. "They all said he was afraid to have open-heart surgery. Well, I mean, that would have been a breeze compared to this. What was fascinating was when certain people of power say, 'This is what happened,' and other people, who might not believe it, accept it because it comes from that person."

Since the book's publication in America he has been contacted by a man who told him where de la Vega spent the last few hours of his life. "There is a reporter in LA now who is investigating the whole story. And there is a magazine that is doing a big piece on her [Morgan]."

He is, he admits, playing a somewhat tricky game. "Yes, it's dicey, but it's not life-threatening or suit-threatening. I don't know who could sue. Dead people can't."

"There is nothing new here that has been dug up by me. This is perhaps the most highly publicised society scandal since the one on which I based *The Two*



Victim: was Vicki Morgan murdered because she was about to reveal a high-level sex scandal?

Mrs Grenvilles. The real story was shabby, shabby. This is not."

The book leapt into the American best-seller lists the week it was published, and appears to have established Mr Dunne as a major writer of popular fiction. It is certainly his best work so far, and the Dunne character in it — there is always one who carries the fictional burden of his self image — is strong and confident, an alcoholic writer who has come to terms with his problems. Mr Dunne, whose son, actor-producer Griffin Dunne, has just had a daughter, feels that life has become good to him.

He is due to start another book in August. There may be "elements" of a true life story, "if one comes in it won't be the central thing. Murder seems to be part of our everyday life."

Perhaps this explains the fascination the subject matter holds for his readers (and viewers — *The Two Mrs Grenvilles* and *People Like Us* have become made-for-

'This is the theme that comes into everything I write, people who go unpunished or underpunished, the whole justice system'

television films). The affluent society blackcloth helps, too, although he agrees that conspicuous wealth is going out of fashion. "Has gone. It went with the decade, with the Reagan's."

Will this make it harder for him to write? "Why? Somebody else asked me this, too — you think I can only write when they're flaunting it? It does not mean that just because the Trumps are getting poor, everyone is. It is moving around, that's all."

Vanity Fair has also commissioned him to write a 10,000 word piece about the Menendez brothers.

These are two young men who are accused of murdering, in particularly gruesome circumstances, their wealthy parents in Beverly Hills. The case, has had huge coverage in America. Various screenplays are already being written, although there has not been a preliminary hearing.

Mr Dunne, while disapproving of this media circus — having experienced it at first hand during Sweeney's trial — cannot help being fascinated. "Such a story," he says. "I don't happen to think they're innocent. What's utterly shocking is these are not drug addicts, they look like nice privileged kids. They're wonderful tennis players, when you watch them move, they're like colts — and you think, why? Being Dominick Dunne, of course, he is seeking answers. The guns still haven't been found. But I know where they are..."

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990. *An Inconvenient Woman* is published by Sidgwick & Jackson tomorrow (£13.95).

& BRIEFLY

Guides for high fliers

THE international traveller who has to "get back to Britain tonight" may find it worthwhile to invest in Official Airlines Guides, a series of pocket guides that provide detailed flight information including flight times, numbers, minimum connection times for each airport, and number of stops. The guides, updated monthly, enable you to plan your own flights and avoid delays, such as sudden air traffic control strikes — by offering alternative routes. The cost of the service is \$92 (about £55) a year. Further details from OAG, Bridge House, 4 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1EX (0732 352666).

Baby safe

A USEFUL investment for prospective parents is the *Baby in the Way* action pack published by the Consumers' Association with Hodder & Stoughton. With the consumer expertise of *Which?* behind it, it lists relevant British manufacturing standards for baby products (while warning that a standard is not an absolute guarantee of safety), provides a guide to assessing safety and gives advice on what to look for when buying items second-hand. The pack costs £7.95 from the *Which?* bookshop at 359 Euston Road, London NW1, other bookshops or by mail order from the subscription department, Consumers' Association, PO Box 44, Hertford SG14 1SH.

Cheap chin-ups

AMERICAN research shows that women from local aerobics classes performed significantly better at sit-ups, step-ups and toe-touching than women who worked out on sophisticated machinery at expensive fitness clubs, possibly because they enjoyed more camaraderie with fellow sufferers.

Good growing

RYTON Gardens, the National Centre for Organic Gardening and the setting for the Channel 4 gardening series *All About Gardening*, has a free catalogue which lists everything from organic fertilisers to organic pest control sprays. Seeds are also available. Ryton Gardens itself has walks through wildflower meadows, flower and vegetable gardens, a conservation area, a children's play area, a picnic area, a cafe serving organically grown food and a shop. The catalogue is available from Ryton Gardens, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry CV8 3LG (0203 303517).

VICTORIA MCKEE

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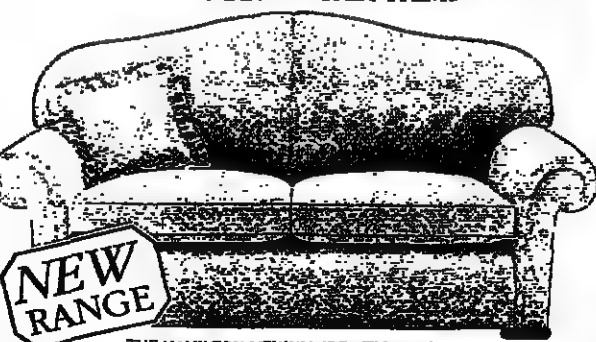
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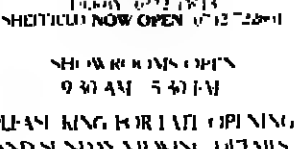
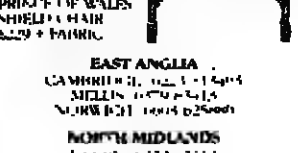
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THIS week Abbey National joined the ranks of employers offering better deals to women to persuade them to return to work after having babies.

An Abbey mum is now entitled to a baby bonus of £75 a month to help with child care costs. This bonus will be paid for two years after maternity leave, which has also been extended from 29 to 40 weeks.

The Abbey dad has not been entirely overlooked. The company is to allow both male and female employees to take extended leave of up to five years to raise a family or look after sick or elderly relatives.

There is, of course, a big difference between "helping" with child care or with looking after a relative and doing the lion's share of the work, being the person to whom the help may be offered. So how many fathers will take advantage of the scheme? Yasmine Encer, an Abbey press officer, admits that no one knows.

The incentives were introduced because, of our 14,000 employees, more than 80 per cent are women — and half of those who were going off on maternity leave weren't coming back. However, it was felt that if we were going to offer extended leave to women, we should also offer it to men.

SHE says that "everybody knows of a family where the husband helps with child care. And work patterns are changing. There are many different circumstances under which a man might want to be the one to have a career break. Of course, at the end of the day, money does count, and there may not be that many men whose wives earn enough to make it a sensible choice."

But money isn't the only factor. "Perhaps if a husband wants a child more than his wife does, he'll suggest that he will be the one to stay home for the first five years to look after it."

According to Income Data Services, some employers now offer extended leave: some make it available for women only, as an extension of maternity leave; others offer it to men and women. Norwich Union, which employs 12,000 people (just over half are women) introduced a scheme for women in April last year, offering up to five years off following maternity leave. This year it was extended to men.

Hayley Stumpson a spokeswoman for the company says

Mothers to get the bonus habit

Abbey National has joined those giving cash incentives to working mothers

"We feel there should be equal opportunities for men and women to take extended leave. If an employer is married to a woman who earns more than he does, they might prefer him to take the career break rather than her."

At Midland Bank, a career break scheme has been in operation since 1984. Midland employees — male and female — can take up to three breaks in service totalling a maximum of five years in order to fulfil "caring" duties at home.

If the five years are not taken in one go, there must be a minimum period of a year back at work before the next period of leave.

CAMPBELL Evans, a Midland press officer, is the father of an 18-month-old child, yet he admits he never considered the idea of taking leave to be a temporary full-time father. His wife wanted to be the one who stayed at home and, he says, "my career is better served by my staying at work."

In purely economic terms, it would not have made sense because I earn more than she did as a physiotherapist. As it happens, my wife discovered that she likes being a mother but not a housewife, so she is now working part-time.

Mr Evans knows of two men at Midland who have taken extended leave, but despite all his efforts they would not come forward and talk about the enlightened attitude of their employers and the delights of family life. "They don't want to be regarded as quitters," Mr Evans says. "Presumably their wives are better paid than them."

Yet he suspects that this reticent duo may not be as unusual as they think. "Judging by the number of men you see picking up their wives in the station car park, every night, there must be quite a few house husbands around."

LEE ROPWELL

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MORTE



Possibly riding a new wave of enthusiasm: The Jolly Boys take to the water in Jamaica prior to embarking on their British visit

WORLD MUSIC

Grandfathers of reggae

Morant Point lighthouse on the northern shore of Jamaica was built in 1841. Its engineer was George Grove, now more renowned for his dictionary of music and musicians. That is a happy coincidence, because the history of Mento, the original music of the area, is thoroughly worthy of an entry in Grove's dictionary. Doubtless he would have been delighted to trace its rise, fall and potential resurrection with a flourish of footnotes.

In the nearby town of Port Antonio, Mento's sole surviving supergroup, The Jolly Boys, are still playing, with more years between them than even the Rolling Stones. The Jolly Boys have a lot to live up to. Not only were they Errol Flynn's favourite band; they were also the direct forerunners of reggae's greatest star, Bob Marley.

Mento is the music that time forgot, the real roots of reggae: a unique Jamaican form, descendant of the African slave dance music which added joy to plantation life, but with a strong whiff of 19th-century European court dances. Improbably enough, quadrilles, as in the antiquated Parisian social whirl, can still be heard in Jamaican folk music and in the distinctive lilt of Mento.

If all this sounds like the ultimate fantasy of every World Music lexicographer, it is hardly surprising that the likes of Andy Kershaw and record producers have been lingering enthusiastically in the courtyard of the Trident Hotel in Port Antonio. For it

The Jolly Boys, a veteran Jamaican band whose Mento music is the ancestor of reggae, are in Britain for the first time. Adrian Dannatt met them

is here that The Jolly Boys have been performing most nights of the week, to an indifferent gathering of tourists who are unaware that the five elderly musicians before them were at one time more used to revelling with the likes of J.P. Morgan Jr and the Hollywood celebrities flown over by the mighty Flynn.

But, after decades of obscurity, it is now once more Mento's hour. Having played the Port Antonio hotel circuit for too long, the venerable Jamaicans have swung into the international jet-set. Life changed for the Jollys when an American record producer, Michael J. Lemo Jr, checked into the hotel. As he sat eating his jumbo shrimp on the lamplit patio he perceived, through the chatter of neighbouring tourists, that he was listening to a band of rare potential. He returned to America determined to make the Jollys into stars. As is the way of the music business, he had never even spoken to the Jollys themselves.

Months later, the result was an album, *Pop 'n' Mento*. Now there is a world tour. For a group who have never previously left Jamaica, jetting off to Tokyo and Europe obviously has its excitement, but the Jollys retain an admirable stoicism. As Swimmer observed, it seems "The

time for Mento has come again." With a second album out on the Cooking Vinyl label, and several appearances in Britain forthcoming, British audiences have the chance to "go Mento" themselves. Considering the popularity of reggae in the UK there is no reason why its musical predecessor should not be just as big.

Moses Deans, founding member and banjo guru, is a charismatic figure, happy to admit it is the ladies who keep him young. Just how young he remains lost in the mists of folklore. Moses is a descendant of the Maroons, escaped slaves who won their independence, and Mento is clearly African-derived in its use of rumba box or kalimba (thumb piano), played for the Jollys with great charm by Joseph Bennett. Allan Swimmer is the band's lead voice, and also writes any songs other than the Mento classics that take up much of their 160-song repertoire. Most Mento lyrics are distinctly saucy. Swimmer has a soft sensual delivery of such risqué numbers as "Banana", "Touch Me Tomato" or the scarcely less suggestive "Big Bamboo".

Musical taste in Port Antonio has changed considerably: once, as befitted the world's top banana port, it was typical Jamaican sea-shanties, but nowadays the youths are only in-

terested in ragamuffin reggae. Mento, however, was always the most popular, if not the only, music of rural Jamaica. Everyone gathered for parties of drinking and dancing - entertained by stars such as Lord Flea, Count Sticky or the Port Chop Rumba Box Band. High society took an interest and Mento bands added essential sauce to any club event.

There were few recording studios to capture Mento before it vanished under ska sound-systems and the amplified instruments of reggae, and the Jollys are among the first, and last, Mento bands to be recorded. According to Marjorie Whyte, folk music researcher, "In the context of popular Jamaican music, Mento could well be regarded as the matrix."

The Jolly Boys, still playing acoustically, able to strum along in the dark during Jamaica's frequent power-cuts, are the closest to real Jamaican pop music you will hear today. As Swimmer puts it: "We don't want it to die out, and now younger people are getting more interested all round the world. It will work, all you have to do is put your energy into it."

● The Jolly Boys play the King's Head, Crouch End, London N8 (081-960 6000) tomorrow; Womad at Reading (0734 391591), Friday afternoon; Astoria, Charing Cross Road, London W1 (01-239 7483), Friday evening; Lambeth Festival (01-978 8622) Sunday afternoon; Womad, Sunday evening; P & O Portsmouth Festival (0705 824355), Monday lunchtime.

LITERATURE

Don't know nothin' 'bout a sequel, Miss Scarlett

What happened after the end of *Gone With the Wind*? Joseph Connolly finds the novel's sequel far from complete

The spokesman for Macmillan publishers could not be more certain. "The whole world is waiting for the sequel to *Gone With the Wind*." It is not clear how many there are consumed with impatience on this matter. But for those who are, there is bad news: the much-touted plans for autumn publication have been scrapped. Initial reports indicated that the sequel would not appear until the following spring. This week, however, Jane Wood, the editor at Macmillan, says that "Autumn 1991 is the projected date. Probably."

The author, Alexandra Ripley, has been paid an advance of \$3 million (£1.68 million) by Warner Books in the US, and Macmillan UK are in for over £1 million, so the key question for all involved is whether the project is merely undergoing teething troubles, or whether (as some sources suggest) it is struggling for life.

Those who are not involved, of course, 54 years after the publication of the original novel, may be tempted to echo Clark Gable's celebrated line in a film whose title momentarily escapes me: "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."

Margaret Mitchell, the creator of Scarlett and Rhett, would have been bemused by the continued interest, but probably irritated by this present venture. She was only 36 when *Gone With the Wind* was published in 1936, yet despite the fact that the ending of the 800-page epic seems contrived precisely in order to pave the way for a sequel (the protagonists are not reconciled, neither dies and "tomorrow is another day"), the author remained adamant that no follow-up should be written.

Even after the huge success of the film, she remained unmoved by the increasingly lavish inducements from cru-

elly frustrated publishers and film producers. She died in 1949, leaving *Gone With the Wind* as her only book. "I know good work and I know good writing, and I didn't think mine good," she said by way of explanation.

She felt strongly enough (and was by then sufficiently media-wise) to express in her will a wish that no sequel be undertaken by another hand. But the clause in question has been declared to be "ambiguous", and therefore open to the interpretations of would-be entrepreneurs.

Copyright runs until January 1, 2000, and apart from the film royalties, the novel continues to sell more than 28 million a year in the last count. The beneficiaries of this estate are the author's brother and sister, who have hitherto spurred all advances: a film treatment for a sequel was approved in 1984 but permission later retracted. Approval was finally given to Alexandra Ripley; no one is quite certain why, except that she is a writer of historical fiction from the Deep South.

"Alexandra is an immensely talented writer," says Macmillan's Jane Wood. "She comes from Charleston - she really understands the whole thing. She lives in a small sort of plantation mansion." And the delay? "This is a very major project... authors and editors often need more time to make sure that a book is as good as it can be."

But it appears to be more than just a case of a final polish: "I haven't actually seen any of the book, apart from the 30-page treatment," admits Wood. "But I gather it will be about 1,000 pages eventually. About half is written."

Other sources, however, suggest that many thousands of pages have actually been written, but that only 500 remain after the constant rewrites insisted upon by Warner Books. Prospective film-makers are said to have

been appalled by rumours that Scarlett's sexuality had simmered down over the years. Rhett had considerably aged (he was already 45 when we left him) and that a good deal of the book was not to be set in America at all.

"Actually," says Wood, "we are rather keeping the whole thing under wraps - the ending in particular is being kept a secret." Not least from its author, it seems. "But the print-run will be big when the book finally comes - six figures." Jane Wood reaches for the publisher's ultimate accolade: "We would treat it like a Wilbur Smith."

What of the eventual film? Says Lavinia Trevor of the William Morris Agency which administers the Mitchell Estate: "We haven't actually sold the rights. Of course we have had offers - but it would be crazy to sell the rights before we have the book. It's a question of integrity." It is also a singular approach, since many rights to blockbusters are sold these days in exactly these circumstances. "The book itself will be seen to be a must-have. As to the film rights - we could sell the title alone for billions, I expect." Lavinia Trevor was of course exaggerating - and so too was Wood (I think) when she suggested that Macmillan would in all probability send out no review copies of the eventual work, in order to preserve this puzzling secrecy business.

Oddly, the projected work still has no title. "Several are being discussed," says Wood, "but... Secret? Well, a bit. Tara has been put forward, Scarlett is a possible and, of course, *Tomorrow is Another Day*. I really can't say more than that - but whatever it's called it will be worth waiting for."

What seems by no means certain, however, is whether or not we will get our second *Wind* before all those concerned have run out of puff.

Vivien Leigh and Butterfly McQueen in the 1939 film of *Gone With the Wind*

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CRITICS' CHOICE: OPERA, DANCE AND MIXED MEDIA

OPERA
LE COMTE ORY: Hilarious production of Rossini's last comic opera by Mike Ashman for the Royal College of Music Opera School. Outstanding performance by Der-Sim Hwang as Isoler. James Lockhart conducts. Britten Theatre, RCM, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 (071-588 3643), Wed, Fri, 7pm, £2-£5.
THE BET: New piece of music theatre for instrumental ensemble, narrator and puppets by Erika Fox, based on a story by Elaine Feinstein. John Roberts directs. Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London (071-359-4404), tonight-Sat, 8pm, £3.50-£10.
WILLIAM TELL: Covent Garden's brave attempt to stage Rossini's masterpiece misses the mark with this lame production by John Cox. It has its moments, though (the apple shooting is a brilliant piece of stagecraft) and is decently sung. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240-1066), tomorrow, 6pm, £4-£20.
ARABELLA: Ancient Rudolph Hartmann production of Strauss's romantic comedy given another dusting down. Kirie Kanawa takes the title role and Jeffrey Tate conducts. Peter Weber sings Mandryka. ROH (as above), Sat, 7pm, £4-£30.
THE ICE BREAK: This strongly-cast Prom performance of Tippett's fourth opera will provide a timely opportunity to judge whether its neglect is justified. David Altherton conducts the London Sinfonietta and its Chorus Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071-823 9998), Mon, 7pm, £30-£18.
OUTSIDE LONDON
CAPRICCIO: Revival of John Cox's production of Strauss's last opera, conducted by Bernard Haitink. Felicity Lott returns as the Countess; Brigitte Fassbaender, making her Glyndebourne debut, sings Clara. Glyndebourne, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 541111), Sat, Wed, 5.30pm, £30-£75.
LA BOHEME: Peter Knapp's Travelling Opera extends its spring tour to bring the Puccini favourite to Colchester. Richard Balcombe conducts.

DANCE
ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: Premiere of *Dancing Ledge*, Siobhan Davies's first work for a classical ballet company, to music by John Adams, with Macmillan's *Anastasia* in which Trinidad Seviliano replaces the ailing Lynn Seymour (tonight, Thurs). Then Ashton's *Romeo and Juliet*, with four different casts (Fri-Tues). London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-936 3161), 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £4-£30.
IF ONLY... Lloyd Newson's new work for DV8 Physical Theatre, already acclaimed at the Rouen festival. Tramway Glasgow (041 332 0522), tonight-Sat, 8pm, £5-£0.
ACADEMY OF INDOONESIAN ARTS: Three programmes for the Scottish Gaelic - Balinese dance and music (tonight), Javanese (tomorrow, Fri) and a combination of the two (Sat). Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234), 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2pm, £3-£12.50.
ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL: Dances from *Bourdonville's Napoli* show the young dancers' high spirits (tonight-Sat, Sat mat), supplemented by other works including *Ninette de Valois*' famous piece, *The Rake's Progress* (tonight, tomorrow, Sat eve). Holland Park Theatre, Holland Park, London W8 (071-802 7856), tonight Sat, 8pm mat Sat, 2.30pm £7.

MIXED MEDIA
MICHAEL MAYHEW AND BECKY EDMUNDS: Double-bill of work from dynamic Manchester duo who whisk visual and physical theatre together, introducing challenging themes. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 3647), tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, £6 (£5), plus £1 day pass.
RASHEED ARAEEN: A discussion with Rasheed Araeen relating to the development of the large-scale billboard work "Golden Verses", on display nationally until September, and on back arts in Britain. Chisenhale Dance Space (081 981 4518) tomorrow 7.30-9pm, free.
RACHEL WHITEDRUM: Ghost Theatre installation, funded by the Henry Moore Foundation, is a life size plaster cast of the artist contained within the four walls of a room. A look at "the ghost of a remembered room" (as above), Chisenhale Gallery (as above), Wed-Sun, 1.6pm, free, until July 27.
THE BOW GEMELAN ENSEMBLE: Excellent group of visual artists/musicians, renowned for creating one-off experiences in unusual settings. In addition to their floating oil-drum kit, and bath-tub castanets, they premiere new instruments made from scrap stainless steel. Open at Swimming Pool, Stratford Park Leisure Centre, Stratford Road, Stratford, London E15 (0453 860703), Fri 8pm, £4-£5 (£2.50), £1 children.

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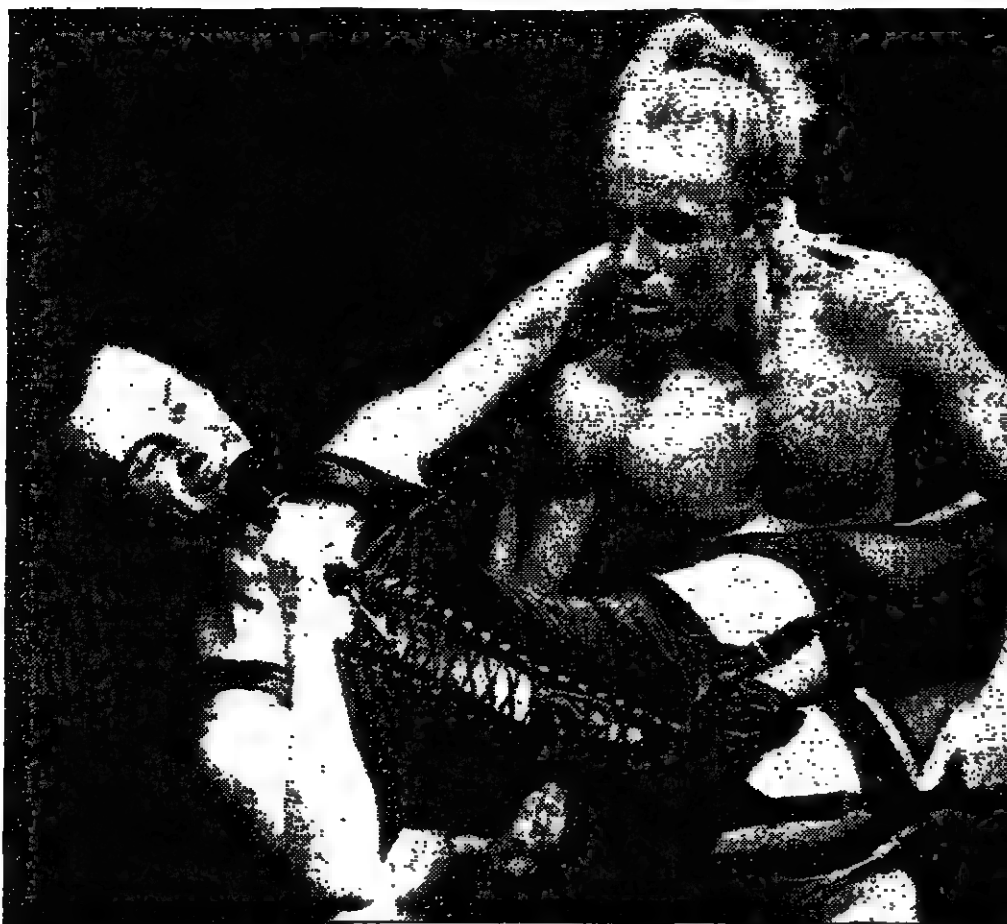
Rocky Horror Show Piccadilly

THE filmed version of Richard O'Brien's larky show has become a well-known cult, inspiring audiences to join raucously in the dialogue and pelt the screen with rice, possibly to mimic the naffily filmed raindrops that soak poor Brad and Janet as they scurry for shelter in the castle of the mysterious Frank N. Furter.

At the Piccadilly, the show's more fervent admirers are keen to treat the actors on stage in the same way. Ushers stand guard in the aisles — the real ushers, that is, not the creepy lot wearing scar-tissue masks who wave you to your seats — and at the first sign that someone is about to throw the Patina grain they charge off to collar him.

There is nothing they or anyone can do to control the vocal interjections, most of which obliterate whatever is being said on stage. Some can boast a certain barmy wit, and the rejoinders from the cast are not bad either. If you have not recently seen the film, certain exchanges between the characters will be entirely lost. The work is not *Hamlet*, of course, but the deliberately inept dialogue, spoofing the old feature horror movies, is part of the show's quaint charm, and the production falls far short of stripping the performances of the camp accretions they have acquired over the years.

To attempt to analyse the show's strange popularity would be to break a peacock on a wheel. At its heart, a plea for sexual toleration can just about be discerned, but it is disappointing how little O'Brien makes of it, preferring, in true decadent fashion, to



Tim McInerney (Frank N. Furter) and Adam Caine (Rocky) in *The Rocky Horror Show*

play and tease and ultimately to urinate with the wilder mores of love.

Probably the core of the show is Frank N. Furter's seduction first of Janet, in shadow play behind a pink gauze, and then of Brad — shadow play again and a blue gauze — using identical dialogue for each. It remains an amusing diptych today, and 18 years ago, when *Rocky Horror* started its life in the tiny Theatre Upstairs, the impact must have been more controversial.

Adrian Edmondson's Brad grins toothily and moves in the appropriate heroic style like an automaton imperfectly greased at the hips. Gina Bellman's Janet is sexy and Adrian Caine's Rocky, the muscular playmate cooked up in Furter's lab, would certainly let no one kick sand in his face.

Those who recall Tim McInerney from the early series of *Blackadder* will recognise the lofty, almost dainty features of Lord Percy, here adorned with a straight wig and corsets for the role of

Furter. He really does not find the anti-sexual wildness of Tim Currey and just occasionally you feel he might be playing it for real. Set against a soaring fire escape and a space rocket of a lubricious dialogue calculated to give the moral majority a seizure if ever it took off from Cape Canaveral, Robin LeVine's production looks out the rock, sends up puffs of smoke and provides corsets for all. The show's heart is almost empty, but the surface still gleams.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DANCE

English National Ballet Coliseum

A GALA used to be a special occasion, celebrated with particular festive entertainment, but in a ballet context the word has become de-valued to mean any premiere where punters can be inveigled into paying extra for their tickets to sit near royalty and drink champagne in the intervals. All a necessary part, no doubt, of fund-raising, but it can be counter-productive when, as at English

National Ballet's London opening on Monday night, there is nothing very festive on offer.

True, we had a revival of one of Antony Tudor's ballets, but (like American Ballet Theatre's similar offerings last week) for two performances only. I wonder whether the new young audience will believe what a stupendous choreographer this man was. When he supervised the work, the dancing had to be polished so that the steps themselves, with the music, could carry the drama. Hammy over-acting would have been ruthlessly cut.

Well, we must make the best of what is available and at least two

of the performers, Christine Camillo and Marguerite Donelle, carried their roles rather well. Perhaps, too, the subject will bring about a war-time setting, with hunger, hope, rape, death and determination as the facts of everyday life. The programme's reference to the Czechoslovak village of Lidice in 1942 is wrong; Tudor himself insisted that it could happen anywhere, any time. Incidentally, the same score, Martin's *Symphonic Fantasia*, can be heard later in the week accompanying a different ballet, *Anastasia*: a rare opportunity for comparison.

Christopher Bruce is, of all living choreographers, the one most influenced by Tudor, but his latest production for the company, *Symphony in Three Movements*, could have done with more of Tudor's gritty ability to dig into the music. It is frivolously, even perversely lightweight as an interpretation of Stravinsky's towering score with its dark undertones. The jazzy manner of the choreography is a genre that has never really suited Bruce anyway, and the dancers make it all very winsome with their eager cheerfulness.

The evening was completed by Béjart's *Boleto*.

JOHN PERCIVAL

TELEVISION

Design Classics BBC 2

HARLEY Davidson was not, despite the name, some touring Victorian actor-manager; he was in fact two men, and what they did was to build those American motorcycles that feel as if you are being asked to ride a 1930s bathroom radiator on wheels. But, as Alex Cox's suitably cultish film last night indicated, the Harley Davidson is not just any old two-wheeler with an engine. It is, in America, a freedom, a religion, and a metal art. Jesus, we were reliably told by a motorcycling evangelist, would himself have driven one. There was no mention of Peter Fonda in *Easy Rider*, which suggests he may have been on one of those unpatriotic Japanese affairs, nor as I recall did James Dean have the grace to die on one, having unaccountably graduated to a Porsche with a roof and two extra wheels.

Nevertheless, the mythology and the devotion are all still intact: there was old Ronald Reagan telling factory workers that a vote against Harley Davidson was a vote against the flag. A man's gotta

dream boy, it goes with the territory. If Willy Loman had been given a Harley Davidson, Arthur Miller might never have had to write *Death of a Salesman*.

We never got to hear from old Willy on the subject, but we did get a collectivist poet (with a beard which looked in some danger of strangling its owner in the spokes) to tell us that this was no ordinary motorbike, but rather "a conveyance for mytho-poetic reality". Somebody else referred to it somewhat less poetically but more graphically as a crotch-rocket, and there can be little doubt that, whatever its engine power, the Harley Davidson has ejected more verbal rubbish through its exhaust system than any similar form of transport, unless of course there are some little-known Japanese *haikus* devoted to the Honda.

"Everyone," said one of its supporters, "has a little bit of Harley in them." And I do not think he meant to conjure up the image of little bits of metal sticking nastily to the insides of legs. This was an electrifying ride in purple prose, a parody of American open-road pomposity which must have had even Jack Kerouac turning over in some celestial fast-food diner.

The great thing about Christopher Hird as a financial reporter

is that he asks all the right questions usually ignored by more sophisticated television money-men. These questions usually come down to (a) how could anybody be daft enough to invest in half the projects around, and (b) who gets their money once they have? Having recently devoted himself to the share-dealing of Cecil Parkinson, Hird turned last night, in *When the Men with the Money Go Mad* (Channel 4), to the channel tunnel, the Battersea theme park and a vaccine to end herpes, projects which are, to put it politely, less viable than heretofore believed.

Hird came up with a sprightly and jokey film which made the most of the understandable unwillingness of most of those closely involved to have anything to do with him. Their conclusion was that your money might have been safer in a sock under the bed than in any of these grandiose plans. If any of them has a real hero, it is surely Phineas Taylor Barnum who first noted, on behalf of the American fairground and circus business, itself not a million miles removed from what was supposed to be happening in Battersea, that there is a sucker born every minute.

The truth is that people invest not because of plausibility but

because of a terror of missing out on a possibly good thing. It has ever been thus: in 1850 half of the bonds on the London Stock Exchange were already in default. But cynicism is not as bankable as hope, and until actual fiasco occurs, the hope is always there. Afterwards, precious few will even talk about it, let alone to Hird. The publicist for the wonder-drug Hird declined a meeting unless Hird promised not to discuss the price.

Back in Battersea, there is a derelict power station open to the elements where, by now, Mrs Thatcher was supposed to have inaugurated the first fun ride. Meanwhile, over the channel, a very similar EuroDisneyland project goes ahead on target. The difference, explained one Parisian analyst patiently, if a little wearily, is that the EuroDisney people actually got their money together before they started to build. No comment from the people in Battersea, but one of the channel tunnel's founding fathers, Sir Nicholas Henderson, could not have put it better on their behalf. "We didn't really know where we were going," he said, "but we were determined to go somewhere. It was founded on the great British principle of muddling through."

SHERIDAN MORLEY

NEW RELEASES

AMTAL DANCES OF VICE (18): Roni Roni's eccentric fantasy portrait of Anita Brenner, a forgotten dancer who inspired the modernists. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

BACK TO THE FUTURE PART II (PG): A study in crowd-pleasing to round off the series, with some amusing scenes as the doctor's eccentric assistant, Doc Brown, is kidnapped by a time-travelling alien. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

BLIND FURY (15): Fully comic-adventure inspired by a Japanese samurai series, with Roger Moore as a blind fighter who defeats a villainous master. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

DARK ANGEL (18): A dark action thriller with Swedish actor Doon Lundeberg as a woman who is kidnapped and then escapes. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

SHES OUT OF CONTROL (12): A comedy about a woman who is kidnapped and then escapes. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

THE LAST OF THE MOON (15): A comedy about a woman who is kidnapped and then escapes. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (C) on release across the country.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS (18): Richard Gere and Andy Garcia as Los Angeles cops sucked into a vortex of sexuality and corruption. Tired thriller, given some kick by British director Mike Figg. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

JOE VERSUS THE VOLCANO (PG): Tom Hanks as a down-trodden man given air to live. Over-indulgent, but a nice little story told by director John Patrick Shanley, with Meg Ryan. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

LORD OF THE FLIES (15): Flat new version of William Golding's savage novel. Paul Bettany as a schoolboy who leads a group of boys to a dark obsession with the island. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

MOON 44 (15): Routine futuristic drama set in 2038, when giant corporations fight to get control of natural resources on distant planets. Cast includes Michael Peck, Malcolm McDowell and Les Elton. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

MUSIC BOX (18): Costa-Gavras's anguished, absorbing drama about a Chicago concert pianist who is kidnapped. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

MY LEFT FOOT (15): The Christy Brown story, uplifting film, movingly acted, with Oscar-winning Fionnula Flanagan. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

NUNS ON THE RUN (12): Eric Idle and Robbie Coltrane starring as nuns in a funny, satirical comedy. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

PRETTY WOMAN (15): Shockingly old-fashioned romantic comedy, given some modern charm and sparkle by Julia Roberts. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

REUNION (12): The film of Neil Simon's play about a group of friends who reunite. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

REVENGE (18): Fehling version of Amy Harmon's novel about a woman who is kidnapped and then escapes. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London.

HOUSE FULL, RETURNS ONLY
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL
Tom Conti as the drunk-but-wise columnist, locked overnight in the local. A great show if you're happy in the company of drinks. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

MAN OF THE MOMENT
Murray Close as a man who is kidnapped and then escapes. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

MOTHER COURAGE
A play about a woman who is kidnapped and then escapes. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

PLANET
A play about a woman who is kidnapped and then escapes. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

RETURN TO THE FOREST
A play about a woman who is kidnapped and then escapes. (Cinema) (17-439 3647).

THE LULLABY
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BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando 8.55 Regional news and weather
9.00 News and weather
9.05 The Chimpunks. Cartoon fun 9.25 Record Breakers. Roy Castle blows his trumpet on more record breakers who include paragon Michael Caine and the only man to have walked to both poles, Robert Swan
10.00 News and weather followed by Double Dare. Peter Simon hosts the slapstick game show (10.30)
10.55 Five to Eleven. Brian Blessed reads prose and poetry at Rievaulx Abbey
11.00 News and weather followed by Hudson and Halls. The quaint Kwakiwits cook a mouthwatering variety of meat on a spit in the company of comedian Ernie Wise (11.30)
11.30 Fisherman's Diary: Summer. Angler Derek Law reflects on fishing through the summer months. He travels to the River Lune and Nostell Priory, near Wakefield, in search of tench, perch and trout (1)
12.00 News and weather followed by Antiques. How to care for leather gold leaf. (Ceefax) 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton, Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 The Train Now Departing: The Long Drag. A documentary about the Settle-Carlisle railway (1) 2.20 Knots Landing: Part Ten. A spin-off which in America is currently rating higher than its more famous forebear

BBC 2

- 6.45 Open University: Discovering Physics - Molecules at Large 7.10 Art in 15th century Florence. Ends at 7.35
8.00 News
8.15 Westminster presented by Brian Cantlon
9.00 Mastermind 1986 introduced by Magnus Magnusson. Four more contenders seek a place in the semi-final (1)
9.30 Roadshow. One of Britain's most famous public schools for girls, Roadshow stands on a bleak and windswept cliff-edge. Indicative of its character, its back is turned on the sea. Instead it looks out over the sea. Nevertheless, this school has not been totally unyielding to the pressures for change demanded by today's society and by the social pressures exerted on it. This 40-minute film looks at what it is like to be a girl at Roadshow, against the background of life at the school
10.10 Country File. A documentary about the rebirth of Lough Neagh in Ulster, after it was overtaken by algae 20 years ago. Will water privatisation mean such regeneration becomes a reality (1)
10.35 International One-Day Cricket. England v India at Headingley. After the rather rain-damaged Test series against New Zealand, the hope is for better weather during the series against India. Today's action comes from the first of two one-day matches played between the three Tests. Commentary by Clive Bennett and Jack Barber with summaries by Ray Illingworth and the legendary ex-captain of India, Sunil Gavaskar

- 3.10 Silent Revolution: Paying the Price. John Craven looks at the long and probably permanent effect that the industrialisation of agriculture has had on the landscape, the soil, us and presumably the rest of the planet (1)
3.55 Popeye Double Bill 4.10 Ewoks (1)
4.35 Otherwise known as Sheela the Great. American children's drama with the usual moral twist at the end
5.00 Newsround
5.10 Colour in the Creek. Drama series for children set in the Great Depression of the 1930s in a gold mining area of Australia that yields little wealth
5.35 Neighbours. (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportsweek 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines
7.00 Wogan. Among tonight's guests is Dallas star Linda Gray
7.00 Them and Us. The show that allows members of the public to air their grievances, whether they be about a neighbour, the role of a policeman or any matter about which they have a bone to pick. The travelling voxbox captures the public in a complaining mood in Devon, sees Britain's most efficient traffic warden and meets Jo Bird, a member of the Ramblers Association, who challenges farmers who do not keep their footpaths free
8.00 Lovejoy: The Axeman Cometh. Ian McShane plays a witely antiquities dealer who seems to run into trouble every time he spots a bargain. When Lovejoy buys an old Welsh dresser he forgets to look in the drawers in which there is a valuable gold Arabic head-dress. He is pursued not only by the taxman but also by a mad axeman

- 1.05 Past and Present Preserved: The Jewish Historical Museum. Housed in a synagogue complex in what was the old Jewish quarter of Amsterdam (before the Nazis wiped it out), the Jewish Historical Museum tells testament to the rich history of Jewish life in the country before the second world war. It also provides a vivid picture of what cultural and religious life was like (1.20)
1.35 International One-Day Cricket. England v India. More coverage of the action in this 55-over-a-side one-day match. Includes news and weather at 2.00, 3.00 and 3.50
7.40 DCF: It's Rough Guide to the World. The team visits Senegal, the most westerly point of the African continent and one of its most historical
8.30 The Victorian Kitchen: Breakfast. When the Victorians sat down to breakfast (or at least when the wealthy ones did) they did things by halves. Ruth Matt cooks up baked mushrooms with watercress; bacon, sausage and eggs; kidneys, kippers, trout, mussels and toast (1)
8.00 M*A*S*H: War Correspondent. Susan St James guest stars as a war correspondent who falls in love with M. A. S. H. (1)
9.25 ScreenPlay: Antonio and Jane - A Definitive Annual Report. Marcy Kahn has written an unflattering comedy about a friendship that survives against all the odds. The triumph Jane (Melinda Staunton) and the sophisticated Antonio (Saskia Reeves) continue to hold their reunion dinner every year despite the fact that Antonio stole Jane's boyfriend. Only their shared



Saskia Reeves plays Antonio (9.25pm)

psychiatrist (Brenda Bruce) knows that neither girl has been able to find what Jane calls "the other half that makes the perfect whole." Kahn stops short (as long way round) of continuing a total reversal of roles by the two chums. That should have been the easy way out. Instead, she cleverly rubs out the boundaries that separate their experience of men. The play makes imaginative use of the TV screen for the projection of the girls' anxieties, although one could argue that their problems have already been clearly established in the script. (Ceefax)
10.30 Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative Party
10.35 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxton.
11.20 International One-Day Cricket. Highlights of the first one-day international between England and India at Headingley.
12.00 Weather
12.05am Open University: Resource Constraints 12.30 Cast in the Night Mould? Ends at 1.00

TV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am
6.25 The Man and the Masters of the Universe (1) 9.50 Thames News and weather 9.55 Inspector Gadget (1)
10.25 The Viking 10.50 News headlines 10.55 The Adventures of Black Beauty (1)
11.25 Just for the Record. Louise Wallace in New Zealand becomes involved with a most expensive cat rescue 11.50 Thames News and weather 11.55 Tube Mice (1) 12.05 Allsorts (1)
12.25 Home and Away. Australian soap 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News at One with John Suchet
1.20 Evening the Tide: The Great Game Robbery. Presented by David Bellamy (1)
1.50 A Country Practice. Australian medical drama 2.20 Takes the High Road. Scottish soap
2.50 What's My Line? Angela Ripston invites David Castman and Susan Holmes to join celebrity panelists Jilly Cooper and Roy Hudd in guessing the occupation of the contestants 3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors
3.55 The Wombles. (Ceefax) 4.00 Barbie the Rat narrated by Bernard Cribbins 4.10 Fraggles Rock 4.40 Kratts Television. Matthew Kelly and the Roly Polys join in the fun
5.10 Blackbustards
5.40 News with Sue Carpentier. Weather
5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Sprackley with advice on how to become a school governor
6.00 Home and Away (1)
6.30 Thames News and weather

- 7.00 Busman's Holiday. Sarah Kennedy hosts this enjoyable occupations quiz in which three teams compete for the star prize of an exotic foreign holiday. This week, the Goldstream Guards from London challenge Telesales from Southport and probation officers from North Curry. Shepton Mallet and Yeovil. (Ceefax)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Ceefax)
8.00 Highway to Heaven. An angel on probation and his human sidekick continue to spread love and harmony through their good deeds
9.00 The Sweeney: Messenger of the Gods. Dennis Waterman and John Thaw star in this tough vintage crime series (1)
10.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party
10.05 News with Sandy Gall and Fiona Armstrong. Weather 10.35 Thames News and weather



Vanishing life in the rainforest (10.40pm)

10.40 Disappearing World: The Mende. Exactly why village life in the Sierra Leone rainforest is thought to be vanishing is not made clear in Bruce MacDonald's documentary.

CHANNEL 4

- 8.00 Noah's Ark. The threatened black stories of the mountains of southwest Spain (1)
8.20 Business Daily
8.30 The Channel 4 Daily
9.25 The Art of Landscape. Retelling film set to smooth music
11.00 As It Happens from the East of England. A documentary about the lives of the people of the East of England
12.00 The Parliament Programme
12.30 Business Daily
1.00 Sesame Street
2.00 Working Words: We'll Let You Know. Richard Briers presents this vocational programme that aims to help both potential employers and employees alike (1). (Ceefax)
2.30 The World at Your Feet. The first in a repeat series of walks along spectacular trails around the world
3.30 Up to Spain/Spanish Peanuts. A challenge to conventions in this classic animation. Plus a Busby Berkeley-style dance number
3.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah Winfrey introduces 999 emergency callers to the emergency operators who originally took the calls.
4.30 Countdown
5.00 Go For It. The show in which children get the chance to try their hand at many different adventure-orientated activities. (Ceefax)
5.30 Flight Over Spain. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria from the air. Narrated by Alan Hargreaves. (Ceefax)
6.00 Labyrinth. Series charting the journey of film producer Richard Doolittle as he searches for a new converted canal boat
6.30 Tour De France 1990. Stage 17 - Lourdes to Pau, a distance of 148km

- 7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zarah Badawi
7.50 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party. Followed by Weather
8.00 Brookside. Another episode of television's most true-to-life soap, centred on a Merseyside housing estate. (Ceefax)
8.30 Europe Express includes a night on the beat with two Warsaw policemen; an item on the Algerian violence in France; and a report on the loggionist, the opera lovers who have presented a successful staging of La Traviata at Milan's La Scala since Maria Callas last sang there in 1955



Scottish sculptor George Wyllie (8.00pm)

9.00 The Why?s Man. The play on words in the title of Murray Ginhay's wonderfully disjointed film about the Scots sculptor George Wyllie is more subtle than it looks. As an artist, in the same way that he is obsessed by the portable spirit that symbolises the

"Civilisation" (i.e. the non-African way of life) is not shown to obliterate the villagers, though it does come as something of a shock when the motorcycle bearing the debt-collecting development official phoots out of the jungle. MacDonald stares his voracious point (although not always his thinking) with anthropologist Marlene Ferme, who has the advantage of speaking Mende. Without her, MacDonald would have had problems drawing out of the villagers so many fascinating facts about polygamy ("How do you keep your many wives under control? ... I give them food until they're stuffed"). And: "If my favourite wife isn't sleeping with me, I slip out of the house quietly and sleep with her. Then I come back to the (duty roster) wife I'm supposed to be with" (1). (Ceefax)
11.40 TEC: Previous Convictions. Bland drama series centred on a Brussels-based private detective agency. (Ceefax)
12.40m Film: Madness of the Heart (1949, b/w). The late Margaret Lockwood and Michael Redgrave star in this intriguing tale of love and jealousy. A Harley Street secretary has an unexpected encounter with a handsome French nobleman. Directed by Charles Bennett

2.15 Videofashion
2.40 America's Top Ten
3.10 Tina Turner - Break Every Rule. One of pop's ageless singers in concert at London's Wembley Arena (1)
4.10 Supercross. Action from the BonusPrint UK Open
4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w). Vintage newsreels
5.00 ITN Morning News with Anne Luchford. Ends at 6.00

fusion of the elements, Wyllie is obsessed by question-marks, both as pure and simple shapes, and as symbols of the frustration he feels at the seemingly unanswerable "why?" of life. Since man has failed to achieve an equitable distribution of wealth, Wyllie tries to attain it through sculpture, but, it must be said, without much success. Sometimes, his brawny protests attract national attention. In the first world war, the Clyde shipyard, he built a huge paper boat, and it is turned up in the Thames, complete with question-mark planted in its deck. Throughout the film, actor Bill Paterson assists Wyllie in snapshots of propagandist "reality" (1).

10.00 The Gravy Train. Last episode of this witty parody of the bureaucratic, and in this case corrupt, affairs within the EC, written by Malcolm Breabury. With Alexei Sayle as the shady Eastern European entrepreneur and Ian Richardson as the first world war campaign on the Galipoli peninsula, to his happy 80-year marriage to Evelyn Gibson. Tonight says Bert's life changing when he joins Mickey Finn's boxing troupe as a prize fighter. (Ceefax)
12.50m Tour De France 1990. Stage 17 - Lourdes to Pau, a distance of 148km

RADIO 1

- FM Stereo and MW
5.00am Gary King 6.30 Bruno and Liz
8.00 Simon Bates 11.00 The Radio 1 Roadshow 12.30pm Newsweek 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00pm Radio 1
Afternoon 5.30 News 5.50 Mark Goodson 7.30pm Night Owl. A night out in a fun club in London. 8.30pm The Night Owls
9.00pm News 9.30pm John Peel 10.00 Noddy Campbell 12.00-2.00am Bob Harris

RADIO 2

- FM Stereo
4.00am Steve Madden 5.30 Chris Smith 7.30am John Peel 8.30am John Peel 9.30am John Peel 10.30am John Peel 11.30am John Peel 12.30pm Newsweek 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00pm Radio 2
Afternoon 5.30 News 5.50 Mark Goodson 7.30pm Night Owl. A night out in a fun club in London. 8.30pm The Night Owls
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WORLD SERVICE

- All times in BST
6.00am News 6.30 24 Hours 6.30 London News 7.00 Newsweek 7.30 London News 8.00 News 8.30 News 9.00 News 9.30 News 10.00 News 10.30 News 11.00 News 11.30 News 12.00 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 3.00 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 5.00 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 6.00 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 7.00 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 8.00 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 9.00 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 11.00 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 12.00 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 3.00 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 4.00 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 5.00 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 6.00 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 7.00 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 8.00 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 9.00 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 10.00 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 11.00 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 12.00 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 1.00 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 3.00 News 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Heathrow or Gatwick still 'best' for new runway

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

CECIL Parkinson, the transport secretary, has virtually ruled out any additional runway for Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted airports to cope with the predicted "saturation level" in passenger traffic in the South East of England by the year 2005.

However, the best place for a new southeast airport runway, for passengers and airlines, is at Heathrow or Gatwick, the Civil Aviation Authority reported yesterday after two years of research.

Both these airports can accommodate an additional runway, but the CAA acknowledges that the Government may wish to rule them out "for wider reasons".

The CAA produced a 232-page report yesterday, naming Stansted, Luton, Bournemouth, Bristol, Lydd, and Manston as other possible sites, and gratefully handed over responsibility for making the choice to the government.

Mr Parkinson now faces one of the most sensitive political and environmental decisions for decades. An

early decision is unlikely. An indication of the difficulties came immediately after the report was published when Mr Parkinson announced the setting up of a working group to "explore the economic and environmental issues which will influence decisions on additional runway capacity for the southeast of England", and virtually ruled out any question of further runways at Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted.

Although the CAA have not been asked, nor are able, to make specific recommendations of their own, they do make plain that the sooner a decision is made the better, and that something must be done by 1993 at the latest to cope with the enormous growth in air travel.

By using sophisticated computer techniques they have concluded that despite a slightly lower growth forecast than originally predicted, and a higher capacity at both Heathrow and Gatwick, the system will be completely saturated by the year 2005.

"In that year about four million passengers who would otherwise have travelled will not travel, and unless a new runway is provided by then this figure will rise sharply in subsequent years," they say in the report.

The opening of the Channel tunnel would have only a marginal effect on demand, attracting around seven million passengers a year in 2005. In that year the total of passengers likely to be passing through British airports is estimated at 204 million.

The CAA was not asked to study anything but the pure aviation aspects of a decision, and Clifford Pearce, the CAA's group director of economic decision, is going to be extremely controversial, and is a job for the government and not the CAA.

In a letter to Mr Parkinson, CAA chairman Sir Christopher Tugendhat acknowledged that "you will wish to rule out, for wider reasons, some of the options we have considered, including perhaps those which are most attractive to airlines and their passengers."

Up to 50 per cent of passengers travelling between London, Paris and Brussels could be captured by British, French, and Belgian railways, when the Channel tunnel opens in 1993, British Rail said yesterday.

BA investment fear, page 25

Safeguard on Poland is agreed

Continued from page 1

been reached on a conventional forces in Europe pact and a 35-nation summit of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe will be triumphantly staged in Paris during November.

The key to yesterday's breakthrough on the frontier issue in the Paris talks appears to have been agreement on a twin-track approach to formalising future relations between Poland and a unified Germany. As informed sources explained it, an initial treaty settling the question of borders will be rushed through, under the aegis of the allied powers, soon after reunification.

With that, the "two plus four" interest would come to an end, leaving Poland and Germany to work towards a more general treaty covering broader aspects of future ties.

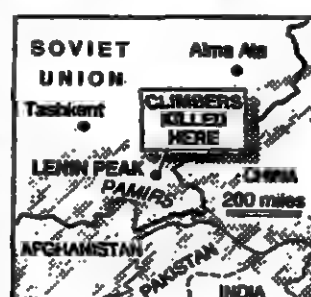
● MOSCOW: The Soviet press yesterday made much of Helmut Kohl's weekend talks with President Gorbachev but neither the press nor Soviet officials made any mention of Moscow's concession on Nato membership for a united Germany.



Daphne Parish, the British nurse released by Iraq, in Basra yesterday. She is expected to arrive in London today.

40 climbers killed on Soviet peak

FROM REUTERS
IN MOSCOW



AT LEAST 40 climbers from five countries were killed by an avalanche in the Pamir Knot mountains of Soviet Central Asia, a government official said yesterday. A landslide, triggered by a small earthquake, crashed down last Friday into their camp on a ledge 19,500ft up Lenin Peak, the Soviet Union's third highest mountain.

Vladimir Shatayev, head of the mountain rescue department of the State Sports Committee, said that six Czechoslovaks, four Israelis,

two Swiss, a Spaniard and 27 Soviet climbers were killed. He did not name them. Another three of the 140-strong expedition were also believed dead, but other

climbers had reported seeing them alive after the avalanche, he said.

Mr Shatayev said 23 of the dead were from Leningrad, and included Leonid Troshchenko, one of the Soviet Union's best known climbers. Lenin Peak, 23,456ft high, lies on the border between the Soviet republics of Kirghizia and Tajikistan, near the Chinese border.

A Swiss embassy spokesman said the foreigners had been invited to Lenin Peak by a Soviet trade union organisation. The surviving members of the expedition had been due

for evacuation on Monday, but it was not clear whether they had actually left the mountain yet, he said. "Reports are very sketchy from down there."

Mr Shatayev said heavy snow was hampering rescue work and the bodies had yet to be recovered.

The ledge had been used by climbers since the 1930s, he told Tass news agency, with camps at that site almost continuously since 1974. "No body could have anticipated what happened. This is the worst tragedy in the history of Soviet mountaineering."

Political sketch

Songs of praise to soothe the 'beast'

"Don't let's be beastly to the Germans" sang Noel Coward.

"We mustn't let them feel upset. Or ever get The feeling that we're cross with them or hate them..."

And that was the mood yesterday. Everybody was making an effort not to be beastly to the Germans. Everyone except Ted Garrett (L. Wallend), but we shall come to him in a moment.

Edwina Currie (C. Derbyshire S.), in a white sailor-suit, was being beastly to nobody. The soul of charm, she started with Mrs Thatcher. "May I say to the prime minister that she's looking jolly nice today!" she beamed.

Mrs Thatcher — in a purple, power-buttoned Mao-tunic — could have replied "I regret to inform my hon. friend that the post of industry secretary has already been filled. However there may be some suitable opportunities coming up in the near future, and I will keep your helpful offer on record." She chose instead to "return the compliment", and to reply to the serious part of her question, about the latest Russo-German accord.

Historic accommodations have often come to be named after the place at which accord was reached. Camp David has become synonymous with Israeli-Egyptian rapprochement; school-

children learn of the Peace of Westphalia, the Treaty of Versailles and the Helsinki Declaration, and would be conversant with the Peace of Venetia if they could pronounce it. But Messrs Kohl and Gorbachev met in Mineralnye-Vodny, which sounds more like a bracing tonic than a love-fest. Still, "Vodny Accord" has a ring.

Mrs Thatcher loves it already. Stopping just short of bursting into Coward's song

"It was just those nasty Nazis who persuaded them to fight."

And their Beethoven and Bach are really far worse than their blue."

she told Mrs Currie that the cold war was over. She didn't add, as Coward did:

"Let's be sweet to them And day by day repeat to them That sterilising simply isn't done."

And Sir Bernard Braine (C. Castle Point) didn't quite sneer: "Let's help the bloody swine again! To occupy the Rhine again. But don't let's be beastly to the Hun!"

But he nearly did. He mentioned Poland, and worries about German territorial ambitions. Would she agree on the need for a new treaty?

"Though they be a little naughty to the Czechs and Poles and Dutch."

"I don't suppose those countries really mind it very much," was the gist of her reply. One could not expect a treaty, she said, though a bilateral deal would help.

Roy Hattersley (L. Sparkbrook) was upset at Mr Ridley (C. Cirencester & Tewkesbury) on Germany's behalf. With Coward, he all but sang:

"For many years They've been in floods of tears."

And Mrs Thatcher, he claimed, by failing to sack Mr Ridley, had made it worse. She tried again. Her tribute only slightly less lyrical than Coward's.

"Let's employ with them. A sort of strength through joy with them."

Let's let them feel they're swell again..."

But hark! A dissenting voice:

"And bomb us all to hell again..."

It was Ted Garrett — and, no, that isn't quite what he said: he said that a glance at history, or war experience like his, would be salutary.

"You could have heard a pin drop. Labour's pro-German solidarity shattered! Dennis Skinner (L. Bolsover) broke in. "They should have 'em at the seminars!"

Mrs Thatcher tried to pick up the pieces. She would have done better with Coward's own lyrics:

"Let's be mean with them And turn the other cheek with them."

And try to bring out their latent sense of fun. Let's give them full air-party."

Garrett: "And treat the rats with charity." MPs in chorus: "But don't let's be beastly to the Hun!"

MATTHEW PARRIS

Times man expelled

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

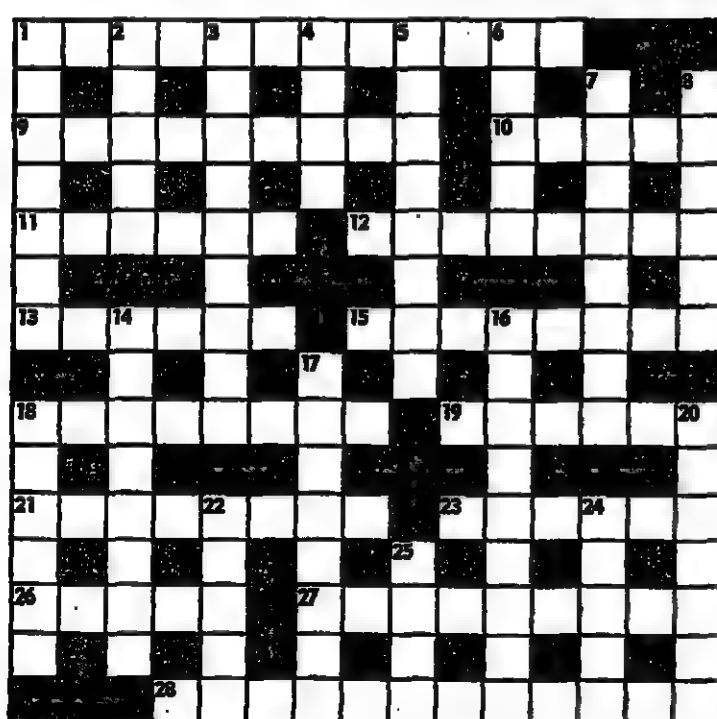
CHRISTOPHER Walker, a staff correspondent for The Times, has been expelled from Kenya after being fined by a court for working without a permit.

Mr Walker, who appeared in court shortly after questioning, pleaded guilty and was fined 20,000 Kenyan shillings (£484). He had been

sent to Nairobi to cover the recent anti-government disturbances.

The magistrate, Mr Omondi Tunya, said that any other journalists convicted of working without official permits and "writing malicious reports" would receive custodial sentences.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,349



- ACROSS**
- New arts post in this place? It's way above us (12).
 - Dog holding Indian at bay (3-6).
 - Brute's expression of defiance starts to occur openly (5).
 - Without money a French president appears different (6).
 - Woman writer keeps the record for a pound (5-3).
 - Artificial tears, possibly — an unknown quantity (6).
 - Rule out copyright in one form of music (8).
 - In a religious house it has precedence (8).
 - Weapon found on banks of a Welsh river (6).
 - Songs and dance to Latin lines (8).
 - Rendering reductions in retrospect to firm (6).
- DOWN**
- Course for a keen viewer, we hear (5).
 - One has uncle assumed, being not professional (9).
 - Two-page illustration of moderate party meal? (6,6).
 - Take in birds upset after transport overruns (7).
 - Spurs finally have a brawl with the Spanish (5).
 - Rest fitfully after cards are dealt by him? (9).
 - Party is upset in S. Africa — the drink... (4).
 - ... may thaw out in the Cape! (8).
 - An echoing sound from the nursery, perhaps (5).
 - Rodent has lump of meat, say, about an hour after midday (8).
 - The energy a chucker-out needs to do his job (6).
 - Celebrate having rise in cash (8).
 - Approach to union puts choir in a tizzy (9).
 - Astronomical phenomenon beginning to involve us after December 1st (8).
 - Dash after this to obtain wall coating (6).
 - Man consumed bread and tried to catch fish (7).
 - Speaker's announcement that he'll identify this passage (5).
 - Many a revolutionary's ammunition store (5).
 - Nothing more than a Maori war-clad (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,348

TEACHABLE COTTA
P E R R O A A L
T A L L Y H O T E N A I
A E P A O M A
L I N E A D O M I N I C A N
I E M A A M
T O V S A I N T G E O R G E
I T M I V E N
D I S C O R D A N C E G A T
A O E A A A
M A N H A N D L E H A U N T
A O I A A I
R U B B E R S O A D A I T
A N E O O A M
S I G H T A L L O W A N C E

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 41 per cent of the competitors at the 1990 Bristol regional final of The Times Collins Dictionary Crossword Championship.

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- ELAPHINE**
a. False ivory
b. Like a red deer
c. A semi-precious lime stone
- CHABOUK**
a. A horsewhip
b. A Rocky Mountain wind
c. A Persian dresser
- MOURNIVAL**
a. Funeral refreshments
b. A pack-horse
c. A set of four
- CIBATION**
a. Cooking
b. Search for philosopher's stone
c. Voting by acclamation

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0636 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & NE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circles) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T. 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Concise crossword, page 15

WEATHER

England, Wales and most of Scotland will have a dry day with some sunshine. Some western coasts will, however, remain rather misty with low cloud. It will be dry with sunny intervals in Northern Ireland, but the extreme north-west of Scotland and the northern isles will be rather cloudy with a little drizzle in places. It will be very warm throughout the country. Outlook: showers in the far northwest of the country will move towards the east and die out.

ABROAD

Area	C	F
Algeria	28	82
Australia	22	72
Belgium	20	68
Canada	18	64
Denmark	16	61
France	20	68
Germany	18	64
Greece	24	75
India	28	82
Italy	22	72
Japan	24	75
Kenya	28	82
Malaysia	30	86
Norway	16	61
Poland	18	64
Portugal	20	68
Romania	22	72
Spain	24	75
Sweden	18	64
Switzerland	20	68
Taiwan	28	82
Thailand	30	86
USA	22	72
USSR	24	75
Yugoslavia	20	68

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	C	F
Scotland	18	64
Wales	20	68
London	22	72
Manchester	20	68
Birmingham	22	72
Cardiff	20	68
Edinburgh	18	64
Glasgow	18	64
Liverpool	20	68
Newcastle	20	68
Nottingham	22	72
Sheffield	22	72
Southampton	22	72
St. Helier	20	68
St. John's	20	68
St. Peter's	20	68
St. Vincent	20	68
St. George's	20	68
St. James's	20	68
St. Mary's	20	68
St. Paul's	20	68
St. Thomas's	20	68
St. George's	20	68
St. James's	20	68
St. Mary's	20	68
St. Paul's	20	68
St. Thomas's	20	68

Notes: 1. Wind: 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-18, 19-21, 22-24, 25-27, 28-30, 31-33, 34-36, 37-39, 40-42, 43-45, 46-48, 49-51, 52-54, 55-57, 58-60, 61-63, 64-66, 67-69, 70-72, 73-75, 76-78, 79-81, 82-84, 85-87, 88-90, 91-93, 94-96, 97-99, 100-102, 103-105, 106-108, 109-111, 112-114, 115-117, 118-120, 121-123, 124-126, 127-129, 130-132, 133-135, 136-138, 139-141, 142-144, 145-147, 148-150, 151-153, 154-156, 157-159, 160-162, 163-165, 166-168, 169-171, 172-174, 175-177, 178-180, 181-183, 184-186, 187-189, 190-192, 193-195, 196-198, 199-201, 202-204, 205-207, 208-210, 211-213, 214-216, 217-219, 220-222, 223-225, 226-228, 229-231, 232-234, 235-237, 238-240, 241-243, 244-246, 247-249, 250-252, 253-255, 256-258, 259-261, 262-264, 265-267, 268-270, 271-273, 274-276, 277-279, 280-282, 283-285, 286-288, 289-291, 292-294, 295-297, 298-300, 301-303, 304-306, 307-309, 310-312, 313-315, 316-318, 319-321, 322-324, 325-327, 328-330, 331-333, 334-336, 337-339, 340-342, 343-345, 346-348, 349-351, 352-354, 355-357, 358-360, 361-363, 364-366, 367-369, 370-372, 373-375, 376-378, 379-381, 382-384, 385-387, 388-390, 391-393, 394-396, 397-399, 400-402, 403-405, 406-408, 409-411, 412-414, 415-417, 418-420, 421-423, 424-426, 427-429, 430-432, 433-435, 436-438, 439-441, 442-444, 445-447, 448-450, 451-453, 454-456, 457-459, 460-462, 463-465, 466-468, 469-471, 472-474, 475-477, 478-480, 481-483, 484-486, 487-489, 490-492, 493-495, 496-498, 499-501, 502-504, 505-507, 508-510, 511-513, 514-516, 517-519, 520-522, 523-525, 526-528, 529-531, 532-534, 535-537, 538-540, 541-543, 544-546, 547-549, 550-552, 553-555, 556-558, 559-561, 562-564, 565-567, 568-570, 571-573, 574-576, 577-579, 580-582, 583-585, 586-588, 589-591, 592-594, 595-597, 598-600, 601-603, 604-606, 607-609, 610-612, 613-615, 616-618, 619-621, 622-624, 625-627, 628-630, 631-633, 634-636, 637-639, 640-642, 643-645, 646-648, 649-651, 652-654, 655-657, 658-660, 661-663, 664-666, 667-669, 670-672, 673-675, 676-678, 679-681, 682-684, 685-687, 688-690, 691-693, 694-696, 697-699, 700-702, 703-705, 706-708, 709-711, 712-714, 715-717, 718-720, 721-723, 724-726, 727-729, 730-732, 733-735, 736-738, 739-741, 742-744, 745-747, 748-750, 751-753, 754-756, 757-759, 760-762, 763-765, 766-768, 769-771, 772-774, 775-777, 778-780, 781-783, 784-786, 787-789, 790-792, 793-795, 796-798, 799-801, 802-804, 805-807, 808-810, 811-813, 814-816, 817-819, 820-822, 823-825, 826-828, 829-831, 832-834, 835-837, 838-840, 841-843, 844-846, 847-849, 850-852, 853-855, 856-858, 859-861, 862-864, 865-867, 868-870, 871-873, 874-876, 877-879, 880-882, 883-885, 886-888, 889-891, 892-894, 895-897, 898-900, 901-903, 904-906, 907-909, 910-912, 913-915, 916-918, 919-921, 922-924, 925-927, 928-930, 931-933, 934-936, 937-939, 940-942, 943-945, 946-948, 949-951, 952-954, 955-957, 958-960, 961-963, 964-966, 967-969, 970-972, 973-975, 976-978, 979-981, 982-984, 985-987, 988-990, 991-993, 994-996, 997-999, 1000-1002, 1003-1005, 1006-1008, 1009-1011, 1012-1014, 1015-1017, 1018-1020, 1021-1023, 1024-1026, 1027-1029, 1030-1032, 1033-1035, 1036-1038, 1039-1041, 1042-1044, 1045-1047, 1048-1050, 1051-1053, 1054-1056, 1057-1059, 1060-1062, 1063-1065, 1066-1068, 1069-1071, 1072-1074, 1075-1077, 1078-1080, 1081-1083, 1084-1086, 1087-1089, 1090-1092, 1093-1095, 1096-1098, 1099-1101, 1102-1104, 1105-1107, 1108-1110, 1111-1113, 1114-1116, 1117-1119, 1120-1122, 1123-1125, 1126-1128, 1129-1131, 1132-1134, 1135-1137, 1138-1140, 1141-1143, 1144-1146, 1147-1149, 1150-1152, 1153-1155, 1156-1158, 1159-1161, 1162-1164, 1165-1167, 1168-1170, 1171-1173, 1174-1176, 1177-1179, 1180-1182, 118

Bond may be
ing in breach

ahead by 78%

BY Davies
up by 170%

ins C&W plea
for fair
treatment

John Major seldom seems to have much reason to smile, but the June Public Sector Borrowing Requirement may give him a chance to grin into his cocoa tonight. Tomorrow he goes to cabinet to try to convince the spending ministers that their extravagance has to be kept in check this year. He goes in this time armed, not with the loaves and fishes of an economic miracle but with the harsh reality of a sharp deterioration in government finances. If any of his cabinet colleagues chooses to doubt the seriousness of his intent, he has only to tap the notebook containing the latest Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

Fifteen years or so have elapsed since government finances last deteriorated as fast as they have been damaged during the first quarter of the current financial year. But then there was a Labour government which put a balanced budget fairly low on its list of priorities. Now we have a government which sets great store by housewifely economics, and the apparent loss of control will be as damaging to govern-

ment morale as it is to the gilt-edged market, perhaps even more so.

The PSBR is at the best of times a fairly erratic statistic, but four deficits in a row could be the outline of a melodrama yet to unfold. At this point in the year, it would not have been surprising to see a figure close to zero for the quarter, and still be heading for the published budget target of a £7 billion surplus for the year. But after three months, the latest of which showed a deficit of £2.6 billion, the account is £6.5 billion in the red, or £13.5 billion adrift of the year-end estimate. Given electricity privatisation to come, it is by no means impossible that the ground will be made up. But it does look unlikely.

When all else fails, most ills can be blamed on the poll tax, and the PSBR is no exception. The beginning of this year has seen distortions in the pace of payments to local authorities, with more "front end loading" of

No loaves and fishes for Major

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

grants. Although the level of non payment of individual poll tax has been played down, in order not to encourage further financial disobedience, it has undoubtedly also had an effect.

Just how much of an effect depends on whether one believes the briefings from the Treasury (which sees it as a significant factor) above those of the environment department (which does not).

The effect does not add up, however, to £6.5 billion in three months, and there are clear signs that spending has overshot, especially in defence. This is what Major is intent on pulling back into line tomorrow.

The gilt-edged market took umbrage at the figures and

knocked up to a pound off at the long end. The prospect of a substantial deviation from the budget target raises the possibility of the government once again becoming a net issuer of gilts, a possibility that will appeal to any remnant monetarist left within the chancellor. Hardly by design, he would have a second club with which to bash inflation. He might even be able to concoct a "market", rather than interventionist, excuse for keeping interest rates high.

As ever, we will need to see the next set of data before we know whether the June figures represent a serious but self-correcting blip, or a more serious fault in the economy. But until the government itself decides whether the

Treasury or the environment department is making the right assessment, the market will remain nervous.

Booker buys

Booker will have to sell an awful lot of sausage rolls to please the market in the wake of the Fitch Lovell deal. The company is prepared to admit to potential gearing as high as 170 per cent the day the acquisition is finalised, although at least one analyst's forecast runs considerably higher.

The Fitch takeover was one of those deals just waiting to happen. A chronic underperformer, the company saw its shares come off over the past year by £1 at one stage from a high of 290p. They were languishing at 219p before the Booker offer, refreshingly unexcited, boosted them by 78p.

Booker is paying a fair price for

a business, only half of which it is reckoned to want. There are two obvious advantages. Vertical integration on the fish side would add value to Booker's farmed salmon by supplying and boosting Fitch's prepared fish business. Economics of scale once the distribution businesses are merged would come from depot rationalisation, cut-backs in inventories and better use of the transport fleet.

The entire Fitch manufacturing side barring fish is thought to be surplus to requirements, which would at least cut the merged group's exposure to the pork cycle, Fitch's Achilles heel.

Booker is paying an historic multiple of 14.1 times and a 41 per cent premium, before its own shares began to slide, to the price at the start of this week. That share price fall looks like something of a buying opportunity, given Booker's long-term attractions.

Meanwhile, Fitch, at 297p some 5p under the cash-and-shares terms on offer, could be a cheap way in, especially given the 8.5p second interim dividend thrown in as well.

TEMPUS

Asda formula faces the test

STEPHEN MARKESON

ASDA, the supermarket group whose shares reached their sell-by date last year at 212p, has had a clear-out. The financial results on the shelves came as no surprise but they knocked 27 per cent off pre-tax profits for the year to April, at £180.3 million.

The main reason for the shortfall was the effect of the rise in interest rates on a balance sheet bearing the £705 million cost of last October's acquisition of 60 Gateway stores. The charge was £29.9 million after £38.1 million of interest was capitalised.

Interest rates also hit Asda's non-food businesses, with Allied Maples profits halving to £6.7 million and MFL where Asda has a 25 per cent stake, contributing a £1.5 million loss. And Asda reckons that the slowdown in consumer spending deprived the furniture profits of £25 million and other non-food products of £20 million.

The delay in acquiring the Gateway stores cost £15 million. Problems with the distribution system cost a further £16 million. There are £8.1 million extraordinary charges for "inefficiencies incurred in the distribution system" and £4.4 million for the costs associated with the introduction of George Davies' footwear and clothing ranges. The George Davies Partnership contributed a £400,000 loss.

The Gateway deal has left gearing at 79 per cent and the group may issue a capital conversion bond for around £150 million if its share price picks up. In the meantime property and land disposals are slowly bringing borrowing down.

Attention should now focus on the basic Asda trading formula. John Hardman, chairman and chief executive, says shoppers prefer his mixture of food and non-food and that like-for-like sales are running at about 5.5 per cent up.

But the jury remains out on the Asda formula. The shares, up 4p at 118p, are trading on a prospective p/e of 10.7 assuming pre-tax profits of £200



Favourite formula: John Hardman says customers prefer a mix of fashion and food

million this year. They are at a discount to the sector but given that interim profits will be down this year, investors should wait for some positive signs of an upturn at Asda before rushing out to buy.

Campari

CAMPARI International's 40 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.28 million on an 18 per cent rise in turnover, albeit for the less important first half to end-May, is impressive for a clothing manufacturer and shows the benefit of specialisation in Far East-sourced leisure wear for the youth market and selling more than half of output abroad, chiefly on the Continent.

However, the results, and the medium-term potential were overshadowed by the arrival of the Cheng family, of Hong Kong, whose much larger Wing Tai property and textile group in Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia bought the Polly Peck Far East textile business and has been keen to find an outlet to expand sales in Europe.

If Wing Tai can do anything

like as well for Campari as Sweden's Ake Nordin, who bought at 49p in 1986 and has sold his 29.6 per cent stake for 270p plus, outside shareholders could be in for an interesting time. Given Campari's established brands and geographical expansion, more financial muscle could move the operation into a bigger league.

The base is not extravagant. Good early orders for the autumn season suggest that BZW's pre-tax forecast of £4.75 million for the year is reasonable, rating the shares, up 24p to 230p, at less than 7 times prospective earnings.

The potential for outgrowth is the risk of change in management control.

Perkins Foods

PERKINS Foods is going flat out for growth, and looks set for net earnings progression of 20 per cent this year and next.

The latest companies joining its fold are de Souffle, the frozen filled pancake maker, and Bakker, the convenience foods group. Both are Dutch. The cost is an initial £21.4 million, which may be topped

up by £1.2 million, depending on profits. The companies are being bought on a prospective p/e of 9.7. They will increase the Dutch profits base from 75 per cent to 80 per cent and open up further opportunities within Germany. They should also be earnings positive this year, and will help lift Perkins' net asset base from £21 million to £43 million.

Funding is via a £28.9 million convertible preference issue at 100p a share on the basis of one for every 3.7152 shares held. The coupon is 8 per cent, and the conversion terms on the 2005 dated issue are 70.92 ordinaries for every 100 preference shares, equivalent to 141p a Perkins share, or an 11 per cent premium over the current share price.

Perkins will have spare cash, and no borrowings, after paying for the Dutch concerns so further deals are likely. Meanwhile, interim profits have been forecast at £7 million, or 88 per cent up, and analysts expect £18 million (£9.8 million) for the full year. The share's prospective p/e of 13 is a premium to the sector, but justified.

BRITISH Airways is now 40 per cent owned by foreign investors, raising fears over its future standing as a British airline.

Of the 730 million shares in the company, worth £1.5 billion, 33 per cent are owned by north Americans with the rest spread among investors from 117 other countries. When the airline was first privatised, about 5 per cent of the shares were taken up by investors on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges.

Increasing demand for the shares in north America over the last 12 months has seen the number soar.

In the airline's original articles of association, a "trigger" of 35 per cent foreign investment was set as a maximum because a higher number could have raised doubts over the airline's right to be licensed as a British carrier on international routes. Although no legal precedent has been established for the precise amount of acceptable foreign holding, worried board members ordered a regular check to be made on the growing number of foreign shareholders. By the autumn, it was clear the 35 per cent limit would be breached.

With the strong pound continuing to raise American interest in British shares, it is feared the figure could go even higher. Plans are being drawn up to ask the government to introduce control which would force some of the shareholders to disinvest.

So far, the airline remains outwardly calm about the foreign holdings, arguing that as BA is a global airline flying

Foreign investors now own 40% of British Airways

to many different countries, it is a good thing for investment to be spread as widely as possible.

Lord King, the chairman, told the annual meeting yesterday: "We are an international company serving an international market and we are happy with the wide international spread of our ownership. We are watching it

very closely and if we think there is any danger of the shareholding going to a level that would mean we were becoming foreign-controlled, we have the right to ask shareholders to disinvest."

Others, however, are concerned that if the figure goes any higher the airline could be open to legal challenge about its "Britishness", especially as the law surrounding the issue is so vague.

BA, which has one American on the ten-man board, has the highest level of foreign investors of any major British company and is testing the legal waters in advance of the European single market in 1992 when it should become

technically possible for European investors to buy shares anywhere in the community.

For the moment, however, the level of foreign shareholdings appears to be acceptable, at least to the board, because with 320,000 individual shareholders, no single shareholder has a stake larger than 5 per cent at the most.

At yesterday's meeting,

Lord King defended the airline's contribution to Conservative party funds, and his own salary increase.

In a series of exchanges with shareholders, he refused to justify his own reported 33 per cent salary increase to more than £500,000 a year.

Lord King told shareholders, who challenged the donation to the Conservatives, that the government had rescued the airline after years in the commercial wilderness.

"When I came to this airline, it was a mess. It was owned by the government — it had been owned by successive governments for years."

"There was no way that this

company could go forward. Mrs Thatcher came in, she said she wanted the airline straightened out and she wanted it to be part of the private sector, and that is where it is now," he said.

He added: "We are doing what we believe, in our opinion, is the best thing to do and the best way to look after shareholders' money."

Lord King also refused to answer questions about the dismissal of a BA manager after 26 years service with the company.

He said the case of Jane Lloyd, aged 47, who was suspended and then dismissed from the shuttle section, was being considered by an industrial tribunal and it would be wrong for him to comment.

He did, however, add: "I feel very sad and very sorry that this sort of situation can arise."

● A Belgian court froze landing slot allocations at Brussels airport for Sabena World Airways, a joint venture airline between BA, Belgium's Sabena and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

The ruling followed a complaint by the Belgian carrier Trans European Airways (TEA), objecting to the link-up on competition grounds. TEA said the ruling meant SWA's development plans were effectively halted until Belgium allowed greater competition from other Belgian carriers on international scheduled flights.

HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Jobbing into history

THE jobbing fraternity of yesterday has, at the request of an Australian academic, been projecting itself back to the days when the stock exchange had a trading floor. And becoming somewhat over-excited in the process. "They bang their fists on the table and often get very over excited," says Bernard Attard, who is attached to the Centre for Metropolitan History, part of London University. He is now more than half way through recording 40 interviews, mostly with jobbers but including one or two stockbrokers and fund managers as well. "We want to record an oral history of the jobbing system of the London Stock Exchange, which ceased after Big Bang in 1986," Attard explains. Once complete, the tapes will be stored in the sound archives at the British Library and Attard then hopes to turn them into a book. With his chosen interviewees including people like Sir Nigel Althaus, the former government broker, and Marcus Colby, at 86 the oldest stockbroker still in full-time employ, Attard had expected to encounter traditional British reserve and stiff upper lip. But, clearly, he had not encountered stockjobbers before. "They were all extremely forceful characters and I was amazed at how relaxed they were. I was expecting them to be far more reserved," he says. "When they talked about the floor, they really could project

themselves back. They got incredibly excited and over heated — it was just as if they were still there."

AN EMBARRASSING slip of the tongue at the Argill annual meeting, at the Savoy Hotel, yesterday. Alistair Grant, the chairman, at the end of the official proceedings, invited his assembled shareholders "to enjoy some of our own label wines, which are very competitively priced, I can assure you."

Warne-ing words

AS A breed, accountants are not best known for their literary prowess. Fellow members of the profession were, therefore, somewhat bemused at the choice of gift given by Chris Benbow, chairman of the Association of Practising Accountants — a group of 20 accountancy firms that discusses common problems and solutions — to John Warne. The informal presentation to Warne, on his retirement as secretary to the Institute of Chartered Accountants, was of a dictionary and *Roger's Thesaurus*. Warne, it turns out, is something of a linguist. He speaks fluent Russian, German and French and, a little apologetically, admits to only being able to read Polish and Hungarian. One member of the gathering that witnessed the ceremony looked up the word "accountant" in the thesaurus and found the word "baboo". In the dictionary, it seems, a baboo was defined as "a derogatory word for a native of India who had

acquired some superficial education in English."

Nomads strike

THE triumphant run by Hill Samuel's new unit trust polo team was stopped in its tracks last weekend when it was beaten by half a point in the Social Cup final at Smith's Lawn by a team called Nomads. A last minute goal by Julian Lancaster, Hill Samuel's captain, was insufficient to save the day. The result was, however, good news for Jock Green-Armistage, the chief executive of Kelt Energy and former managing director of Guthrie Corporation. He turned out to be the Nomads' back marker and the man who saw off many of Hill Samuel's most threatening charges. Hill Samuel, meanwhile, says it is now concentrating on the Flemish Farm Trophy, next month, and adds that its racy new uniforms should be ready by then.

Right attitude

JEREMY Edwards, group managing director of Henderson Administration, the fund management group, is setting something of a precedent for City firms when it comes to man-management. For Edwards, aged 53, who joined Henderson's in 1974 and has been at the helm, along with Ben Wrey, deputy chairman and chief executive, for nearly 10 years, has decided to interview each of the 480 employees at the firm's Finsbury Avenue offices about their attitudes and morale. "We have never done an attitude

survey before," says Edwards, who manages to maintain his own relaxed attitude by spending as much time as possible at his retreat in Tuscany. "We are in a very modern high-tech building and morale is actually pretty high. This is just a way of encouraging people to speak out."

Doctor signs off

LEWIS Robertson, the company doctor who tends the corporate sick and dying, has just worked himself out of another job. Robertson, aged 67 and "with lots of life left in me yet", is stepping down as chairman of Triplex Lloyd, the building products and engineering group that has been his corporate patient since 1982. Triplex Lloyd this week reported its sixth successive year of increased dividends, and turned in pre-tax profits of £12.2 million (£7.74 million). Robertson, understandably, now feels that his stewardship in Triplex Lloyd can be discharged "whilst there are new demands for my time and services elsewhere". So far this year he has apparently received eight approaches for his healing services. "I have been approached by two serious plc companies, both of which have serious troubles, but I concluded that they were too sick to help," he confides intriguingly, refusing to disclose any further details. "I had ideas for the third plc, but the bank would not go along with my plans."

Carol Leonard

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Schroders	Bank/Discount	
2	Trafalgar H (aa)	Industrials S-Z	
3	Frogmore	Property	
4	Geni SR	Draper/Stores	
5	Tribble & Bruns	Transport	
6	Leeds	Textiles	
7	TI (aa)	Industrials S-Z	
8	Duplona	Industrials A-D	
9	Greenall Whi	Breweries	
10	Barclays (aa)	Bank/Discount	
11	Walsley	Industrials S-Z	
12	Domino	Electricals	
13	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
14	Lawrence (Walter)	Building/Roads	
15	Perstemon	Building/Roads	
16	Microfilm Repro	Electricals	
17	Nat Aust Bk	Bank/Discount	
18	Bodyscot	Industrials A-D	
19	Chamberlain & Hill	Industrials A-D	
20	Glynwed (aa)	Industrials E-K	
21	Land Sec (aa)	Property	
22	Audacher (Henry)	Bank/Discount	
23	Ladbrokes (aa)	Hotels/Caterers	
24	Renold	Chemicals/Plas	
25	Town Centre	Property	
26	Tate & Lyle	Foodstuffs	
27	Wimpey G (aa)	Building/Roads	
28	Card Gp	Chemicals/Plas	
29	Foster (John)	Textiles	
30	Wentec	Bank/Discount	
31	Regulus	Property	
32	Sandrich Spoken	Chemicals/Plas	
33	Mowlem (John)	Building/Roads	
34	Pratt & Gurner	Shoes/Leather	
35	Unigate (aa)	Foodstuffs	
36	Greene King	Breweries	
37	Costain	Building/Roads	
38	Delta	Electricals	
39	Turnball Scott	Transport	
40	Redland (aa)	Building/Roads	
41	Harver Druc	Property	
42	Wood (Arthur)	Industrials S-Z	
43	Cable Wireless (aa)	Electricals	
44	Chemring	Industrials A-D	
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Two winners shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr Simon Heath, of Ealing, London, and Mr Bernard Mullan, of West Ealing, London, each receive £1,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

1989	High	Low	Bank	Price	Change	%	1988	High	Low	Bank	Price	Change	%
SHORTS (Under Five Years)													
01/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	01/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
02/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	02/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	03/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
04/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	04/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	05/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
06/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	06/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	07/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
08/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	08/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
09/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	09/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31/01/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31/01/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	01/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
02/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	02/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	03/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
04/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	04/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	05/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
06/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	06/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	07/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
08/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	08/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
09/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	09/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29/02/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29/02/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01/03/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	01/03/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
02/03/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	02/03/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03/03/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	03/03/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
04/03/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	04/03/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05/03/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	05/03/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
06/03/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	06/03/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/03/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	07/03/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
08/03/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	08/03/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
09/03/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	09/03/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10/03/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10/03/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11/03/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11/03/88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12/03/89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0								

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up at 94.0 (day's range 94.0-94.2).					
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					
Latest rates for July 17					
	Class	1 month	3 months	6 months	
Yrs Ymk	1,690.1-1,691.5	1,810.5-1,811.0	1,025-1,060p	2,939-2,970p	4,940-5,220p
stermdm	2,089.2-2,093.2	2,092.3-2,093.3	1.05-1.06p	3.20-3.21p	5.20-5.21p
stermdm	3,369.3-3,570.9	3,369.3-3,570.9	5-14p	8-12p	10-12p
stermdm	81-82p	81-82p	81-82p	81-82p	81-82p
stermdm	11,372.1-11,393.3	11,372.1-11,393.3	5-14p	8-12p	10-12p
stermdm	1,112.5-1,113.1	1,112.5-1,113.1	40-46p	13-12p	13-12p
stermdm	281-31-282.95	281-31-282.95	81-82p	10-10p	10-10p
stermdm	162.37-162.68	162.37-162.68	4-1p	12-12p	12-12p
stermdm	218.1-218.1	218.1-218.1	4-1p	12-12p	12-12p
stermdm	11,422.1-11,473.3	11,422.1-11,473.3	4-1p	11-10p	11-10p
stermdm	10,000-10,029.7	10,000-10,019.5	4-1p	11-11p	11-11p
stermdm	267-268.70	267-268.70	4-1p	4-1p	4-1p
stermdm	297-298.70	297-298.70	4-1p	4-1p	4-1p
stermdm	29,763-29,763.2	29,763-29,763.2	11-11p	11-11p	11-11p
stermdm	2,545.2-2,547.4	2,545.2-2,547.4	4-1p	4-1p	4-1p

Source = p.m. Discount = d.

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Austrian austrian	\$644.02-648.25
Austrian dollar	\$2.22-2.22
Bahman dirham	\$16.76-16.88
Bahman dirham	\$16.76-16.88
Cyprus pound	\$118.407-120.525
Finland mark	\$8,980.70-9,020
French franc	\$25.195-25.244
French franc	\$25.195-25.244
India rupee	\$13.36-13.71
India rupee	\$13.36-13.71
Malaysia ringgit	\$0.950-0.959
Malaysia ringgit	\$0.950-0.959
Mexico peso	\$15.50-15.62
Mexico peso	\$15.50-15.62
Saudi Arabian riyal	\$25.00-25.00
Saudi Arabian riyal	\$25.00-25.00
Singapore dollar	\$2,229.3-2,298
Singapore dollar	\$2,229.3-2,298
S Africa rand (com)	\$7.054-7.054
S Africa rand (com)	\$7.054-7.054
U A E dirham	\$5.125-5.125

*London Bank Rates supplied by

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Malaysia	1.9230-1.8545	Switzerland	6.2200-6.2500	Italy	1200.5-1210.5
Malta	1.8175-1.8175	U. Germany	1.6000-1.6537	Japan (Cont.)	200-24.00
Norway	2.7040-2.7050	Netherlands	1.4155-1.4205	South Korea	7.7000-7.7000
Sweden	1.2647-1.2593	Netherlands	1.8607-1.8617	Spain	144.75-144.85
Switzerland	1.8175-1.8175	France	5.5255	Portugal	15.75-15.01-26
Taiwan	5.9700-5.9750	Japan	148.18-148.28	Thailand	11.91-11.91
Norway	6.3225-6.3275				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Ecol.

MONEY MARKETS

30 Day Rates % Clearing Banks 15 Finance Hse 15%

Overnight 15% Low 14 1/2% Week Stead: 14%	
1 month (Discount) 14 1/2% 14 1/2%	
2 month 14 1/2% 14 1/2%	
3 month 14 1/2% 14 1/2%	
4 month 14 1/2% 14 1/2%	
5 month 14 1/2% 14 1/2%	
6 month 14 1/2% 14 1/2%	
7 month 14 1/2% 14 1/2%	
8 month 14 1/2% 14 1/2%	
9 month 14 1/2% 14 1/2%	
10 month 14 1/2% 14 1/2%	
11 month 14 1/2% 14 1/2%	
12 month 14 1/2% 14 1/2%	

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Current	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month
Dollar	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4
£	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4
Deutschmark	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4
French Franc	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4
Italian Lira	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4
Spanish Ptas	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4
Yen	7 1/4-7 1/4	7 1/4-7 1/4	7 1/4-7 1/4	7 1/4-7 1/4

GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)

Open: \$371.00-371.00 High: \$371.00-371.00
 High: \$371.00-371.00 Low: \$371.00-371.00

GOLD COINS (Per coin, ex VAT)

British: \$371.00-371.00 (\$205.00-205.00)
 Canadian: \$371.00-371.00 (\$180.00-180.00)
 American: \$371.00-371.00 (\$205.00-205.00)
 Australian: \$371.00-371.00 (\$205.00-205.00)
 New Zealand: \$371.00-371.00 (\$205.00-205.00)
 Old Sovereigns: \$371.00-371.00 (\$205.00-205.00)

PRECIOUS METALS

Platinum per ftc: \$471.50 (\$260.80)
 Palladium per ftc: \$116.50 (\$54.45)
 Spot Silver: \$4.83-4.85 (\$2,670-2,685)

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LONDON FOK			LONDON METAL EXCHANGES		
COGGA	AMT Futures	Official prices/volume previous day	Rudolf Wolff		
Jul 758-790	May 831-828	(P/Volume)			
Sep 751-748	Jul 850-849		3 months	Vol	
Dec 748-792	Sep 760-886				
May 831-808	Nov 850-849				
COFFEE	AMT Futures				
Jul 594-592	May 615-611				
Sep 565-565	Aug 587-589				
Nov 567-568	Jul 587-589				
Jan 600-598	Jul 1081				
SUGAR	C-Cameroon				
FOB	Vol: 6543				
Sep 253-830	Nov 243-818				
Oct 253-830	May 243-818				
Dec 263-830	Aug 243-818				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION		
WHEAT close	Vol: 196		Arge's telecote prices at representative markets on July 17		
Sep 111-20	Jul 118-15				
Nov 112-20	May 115-40				
Mar 122-80	Jul 128-20				
TOBACCO	AMT Futures				
TOBACCO close	Vol: 27				
Aug 115-13	Jul 117-25				
Nov 120-40	Jul 121-80				
SOYABEAN	AMT Futures				
Aug 108-0-10-10					
Nov 115-13					
Dec 122-80					
LONDON METAL EXCHANGES			MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION		
Copper 3rd A	1534-0-1538-0	1490-0-1501-0	8864-0		
Zinc 3rd M	1530-0-1535-0	1485-0-1488-0	11575-0		
Aluminum 1st	9622-0-9698-0	9650-0-9698-0	4975		
Aluminum 1st	9430-0-1544-0	1574-0-1575-0	45715		
Hedge	9425-0-9438-0	9475-0-9500-0	2272		
(Cents per Troy oz. (\$ per tonne))					
LONDON MEAT			MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION		
Pigs (Pigs)			Arge's telecote prices at representative markets on July 17		
Live Pig Contract	Vol: 108				
Open	120-5	Close			
Aug 120-5	118-0	GB (w)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
Sep 115-5	118-0	GB (w)	100-0	155-0	104-7
Oct 115-5	118-0	GB (w)	100-0	155-0	104-7
Nov 117-0	118-0	GB (w)	100-0	155-0	104-7
Live Cattle Contract	Vol: 108				
Aug 107-0	107-0	GB (w)	100-0	155-0	104-7
Sep 107-0	107-0	GB (w)	100-0	155-0	104-7
Oct 107-0	107-0	GB (w)	100-0	155-0	104-7
Nov 107-0	107-0	GB (w)	100-0	155-0	104-7
Vol: 117-0			Estimated dead carcasses w/e		
Vol: 117-0					

and on next page

Following the Henley Centre's gloomy forecast about London as a business centre in the 1990s comes a report saying just the opposite

London's battle for big business

London's importance as a national and international centre will slump in the 1990s because of the shift eastwards of Europe's business centre of gravity and the greater relative attractions of provincial cities, the commercial forecaster the Henley Centre reported last week. In a damning verdict on the capital's quality of life and prospects, the report complained that London lacks the sense of community of Glasgow or the patriotic symbolism of Paris.

This week, however, Richard Ellis, the international firm of chartered surveyors, has published a report which totally contradicts the doom-laden forecast of the Henley Centre, and predicts that central London will continue as the financial centre of Europe and become the focus for overseas property investment.

The firm's "Central London Investment Market" report, which examines the capital's economy and property markets, anticipates consolidation of London's position as Europe's financial and services centre of Europe, despite competition from Frankfurt, Paris and, potentially, Berlin.

While the report does not address concerns such as the quality of life,

it says that the UK offers a sound economic environment for the 1990s, with the gross domestic product likely to average 2.8 per cent between 1992 and 1994.

Richard Ellis carried out a survey among leading central London office occupiers which showed that 87 per cent of businesses in the area expected to expand in the next five years.

Setting out its arguments in favour of London, the report says that London already has a global financial role which it can capitalise on: it is the third largest financial centre in the world, and is the world's largest centre for foreign exchange trading; it is positioned halfway between the international time zones of New York and Tokyo, and English is the principal international business language.

The capital also has highly developed legal and accountancy services, and around 500 banks and institutions in central London — compared with 370 in New York, 270 in Frankfurt and 250 in Paris. The London banks account for 20 per cent of international lending, it is estimated.

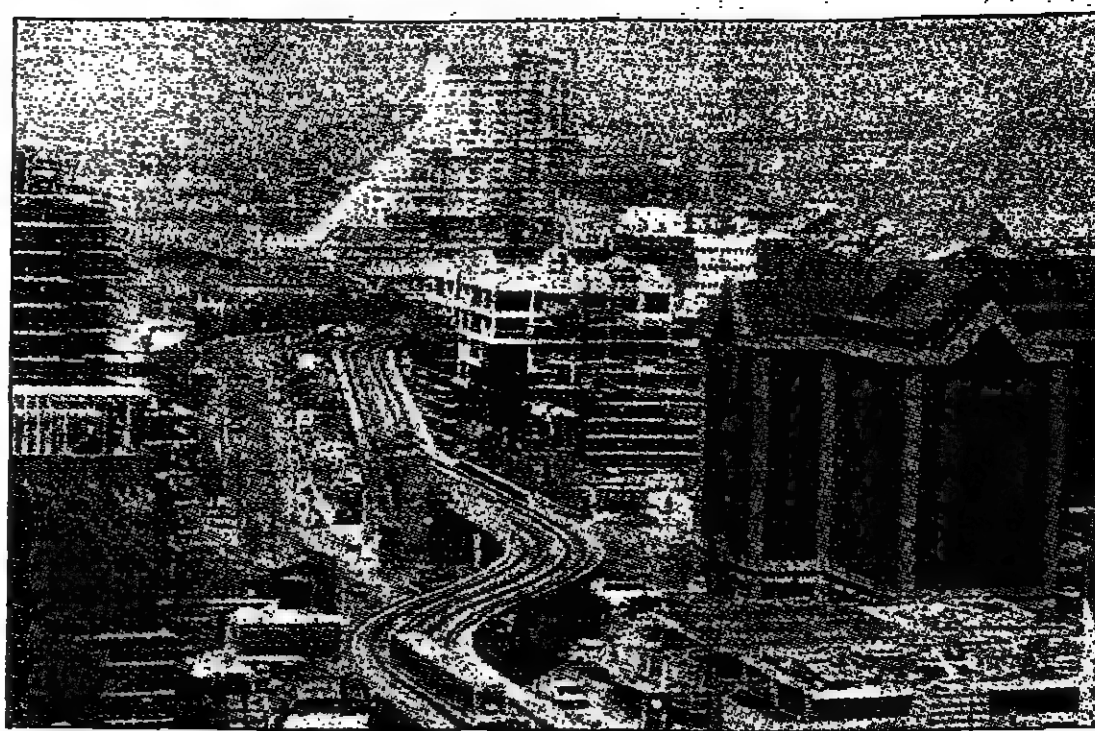
Richard Ellis suggests that London is best placed to offer the highly skilled labour and high

quality office space that expanding multinational businesses will require to service the European market. "Extremely low office vacancy rates in European centres such as Paris and Frankfurt (less than 2 per cent of total office stock) will restrict the ability of these cities to offer a viable business environment," it says.

Between 1979 and 1989, average real rental growth in London, adjusted for local inflation, was the highest in Europe at 7.1 per cent, and the firm believes that rental growth will accelerate from 1992 as demand from business expands in response to the economic benefits arising from the "harmonisation" of Europe.

Yields from central London office investment have remained stable and at a fairly constant annual average of 4.75 per cent.

London Docklands could not be described as central London, but Richard Ellis looks forward to improvements in communications and accessibility by road, and through extensions to the Docklands Light Railway and Jubilee Line, which should "encourage its integration within the wider central London market". The report adds: "As a new London office location for the



Long-term hope? London Docklands, the alternative location for core business activities

In Paris, meanwhile...

PICCADILLY Securities Ltd is one of the few developers looking across the water to France to see how they can make the most of the opportunities offered by the single European market and the Channel tunnel. In anticipation, Richard Berry, managing director, took the firm into the Pas de Calais area two years ago and bought land suitable for the distribution industry, hotels and leisure.

He believes the next area of opportunity is around Charles de Gaulle airport, and thence to Paris. So the firm has acquired a hotel site at Roissy, on the perimeter road of the airport. Mr Berry says: "We can all name ten or 20 hotels around Heathrow, but

there are only a handful around Roissy." With the help of French associates, Piccadilly Securities has bought a 2.5-acre site with planning consent for a two/three-star hotel, and a two-acre site close to Euro Disneyland, east of Paris, for a similar hotel project.

Another British firm, Higgs and Hill, also has a happy tale to tell. It has pre-sold its 70,000sq ft Pole Nord office and high-tech development at Saint-Ouen, in north-east Paris, to the French legal consultancy SVP for about £8.5 million. The mixed development, under construction, will have three linked buildings facing a landscaped courtyard, and is due for completion this autumn.

■ The Power House in Croydon, Surrey, with its famous 300ft chimneys, is to be transformed in a £380 million retail and leisure complex by the Carroll Group of Companies. The chimneys will be retained to keep the Power House as a landmark, and the original boiler house of what was Croydon B power station will become a 500ft-long shopping mall. The turbine hall and its single open curving roof will be developed to hold 200 specialty shops.

When complete, the scheme will have 573,000sq ft of floor space, a 200-bedroom hotel, and bus and coach station.

■ The Japanese Sanwa Bank, the sixth largest in the world, is to lend around £10 million to fund the development and construction of a further phase at the Newcastle Business Park. The bank is providing the funds to Dysart Developments (Tyne and Wear) Ltd, which says that the agreement is a vote of confidence in the soundness of investing in the park.

British Airways is among the firms which have taken space.

■ Thermadyne Industries Ltd, the UK trading company of Thermadyne Industries Inc of St Louis, Missouri, one of the world's largest manufacturers of welding and cutting equipment, is to locate its new European headquarters in north-west England.

The company will occupy 30,000sq ft premises being built at Chorley North business park. Eric Wright Developments is to lease the plot for a £1 million Euro-dollar funded contract negotiated by the Preston agents Bailey Deakin Hamiltons. The Euro-dollar funded contract enabled both parties to benefit from low interest rates in an otherwise difficult market.

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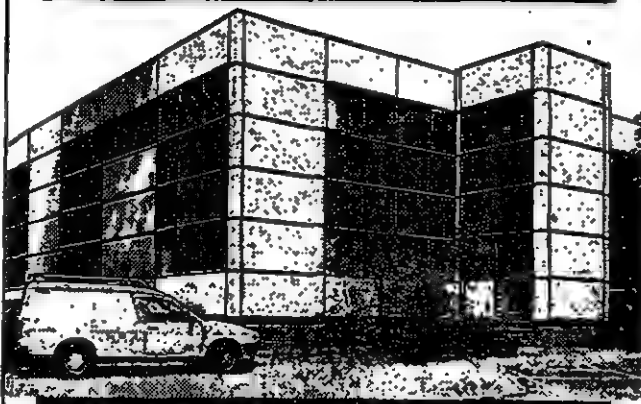
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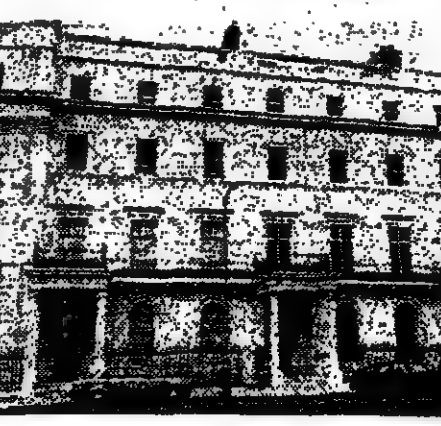
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Composure the key as England face stern physical test

HAVING lost the first match of their tour, England must make sure they do not lose the second, against Tucumán at the Club Atlético here tonight. It will not be easy and 25,000 impassioned Tucumános will fill the football stadium to urge on Argentina's provincial champions.

They have a reputation to maintain which is not all sweetness and light. They won the championship last season despite the handicap of playing all their games away from home, a punishment imposed after indiscipline on the field and off it. Pelting players with oranges is far from unknown, and sometimes objects harder than the local fruit are used.

When the New Zealand Maoris visited San Miguel two years ago, Steve McDowell, the All Blacks prop, and Sergio Bunader, the local No. 8 who plays against England this evening, were ordered off while a month ago, against a touring Languedoc XV, a player from each side was dismissed. At one stage of the match against the Maoris

Club defends how Etheridge joined

NORTHAMPTON, newly promoted to the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship, have denied claims of allegedly poaching John Etheridge, the England B lock, from Gloucester, who were runners-up to Wasps, the national champions, last season.

"There is no question of us acting illegally or poaching players," Gary Pearce, the Northampton captain and former England prop, said. "We are always looking to attract quality players to strengthen our squad. We now have first division status both on and off the field and that will attract players."

Pearce, who led the Midlands to the second division championship last season, added: "I know that John was not getting a regular first-team place at Gloucester. Now Northampton are in the first division he sees us as a club where he can further his ambition."

Wayne Shelford, the visiting captain, threatened to take his entire team from the field.

England, though, should take care not to build up their opponents into some kind of bogey team, because they will have enough on their plate concentrating on a composed, effective performance to erase memories of the slipshod defeat against Banco Nación at the weekend.

"We have players with enough experience and enough potential to play our own game and control the ball well enough so that neither the opposition, nor the referee, should be able to influence where we want to go or when," Will Carling, the England captain, said yesterday, as his party prepared for their third training spell within 25 hours.

England's time in Tucumán has taken them to the lawn tennis club, the Tucumán club and the swimming and gymnasium club, which, in case should there be any doubt, are all rugby clubs with other sporting facilities.

ends how e joined

Peter Ford, the Gloucester chairman, said: "We are loath to lose any player from this club, especially one of his ability and potential."

Northampton have recently acquired established and up and coming players, including John Oliver, the England reserve hooker, and two England under-21 players, Gavin Baldwin, a prop, and Harvey Thorneycroft.

GREYMOUTH, New Zealand: Australia overpowered a combined West Coast-Buller side, winning 62-0, for the first win of their 12-match tour (Reuter reports). They scored 11 tries, six in the first half, to lead 44-0 at half-time. David Knox, the full back, kicked eight conversions. Australia had previously lost to Waikato and Auckland.

Brian Moore, due to be a replacement today, suffered some muscular damage to the ribs which may require 48 hours rest. Contingency plans, which may involve Andy Robinson, were made yesterday in case the hooker is not fit to occupy the bench.

England will doubtless bear in mind that Tucumán include two internationals in their front row, in Molina, at prop, and Le Fort, at hooker. Fasciolli

This season they have played a four-team tournament for northern provinces, and lost to the national side who were preparing to play Canada, though Tucuman surrendered their best players to the Pumas, and beat Languedoc with some ease. They are reputed though to

lack height so England will hope for a good return from Dooley, Redman, Ryan and Rodder at the lineout and a more cohesive display from a pack with Probyn as its cornerstone.

ris, who will doubtless revel in a tight, physical contest, has a trio of Harlequins to serve in midfield. Pears, Carling and Thompson have appeared together for their club only a handful of times, but they have trained frequently together and their understanding may be critical against a Tucuman back division which is not accustomed to running the ball much and is without Meson, the injured international centre.

England will look, too, for a better goal-kicking performance from Hodgkinson than Lifeys was able to offer last Saturday. "It's vital we win to establish credibility," Carling said, "but the most important thing is still to learn about the youngsters."

TUCUMAN, F Williams; M Terán, J Garaci, P Gauna, G Terán; R Saúze, P Merlo (capt); L Molina, R Le Fort, J Cora, P Garretón, O Pascioli, A Macome, J Santa-Marina, S Sneider.
ENCA: XIV: B Hodgson (Nottingham); T Linnell (Luton); W Gads (Harequins capt); G Thompson (Harequins); C Odi (Wasps); D Pagan (Harequins); D Morris (Orell); J Leonard (Saracens); J Oliver (Northampton); J Perry (Wasps); D Ryan (Wasps); N Riddison (Bath); W Dooley (Preston Grasshoppers); P Winterbottom (Harequins); T Rodder (Northampton).
Referee: J.J. Boland (Bunnies Arms).

مكرامن الأصيل

Looking forward: Yobes Ondieki with Darren Powell, of Australia, yesterday

Ondieki splits with Anderson

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

YOBES Ondieki, the world's leading 5000 metres runner last year, whose form this season has been superb, said he had the training which made him the fourth fastest of all time. This is bad news for John Anderson, Liz McColgan's coach, who was informed on Monday that his advice was no longer required. Ondieki, mindful of Anderson's reputation, enlisted the Scot's help at the Commonwealth Games in January because he felt that, by improving his last 800 metres, he could reduce the difference between his 13min 4.24sec and Said Aouf's world record 12min 58.29sec. But Anderson's programme, Ondieki said, favoured too much speed work which sapped his strength.

"I am not happy with the way I have been performing and I have told John that I should go back to basics," Ondieki said. Anderson coached David Moorcroft to his 5,000 metres world record in 1982 but

Ondieki added: "Liz and Dave have been successful but he worked with these athletes since

they were young and maybe he am too old to change. I have been following what he has been doing, telling me to do and I am slipping." Ondieki is aged 29. Last year he was the first man for 10 years to beat Aouita over 5,000 metres. His problems began in Canberra in January when he suffered illness after racing; later that month he fell in the Commonwealth Games, but his troubles were just beginning.

He has been simply one of the crowd in the Mobil grand prix. "You discuss it with the coach, but he expects you to listen. I feel before the race you should relax and someone should not be telling you the tactics."

Ondieki hopes that, under his own guidance, he will recapture his form at Crystal Palace on Friday evening in the Parcel-force Games. He will run his chosen distance and will face a field which Andy Norman, the

meeting promoter, said yesterday had never been bettered at the London venue.

It includes Hammer, Boutayev, after his epic 10,000 metres with Salvatore Anibio in Oslo on Saturday. Arturo Barria, who won the 10,000 metres record-holder, and a strong home contingent including Gary Staines, Richard Nurden and Simon Muggleston.

At the end of last year Britain's grand prix meetings in Edinburgh a fortnight ago, the main interest will be in Steve Zelenczyk, who took his world record in Oslo. However, the most entertaining event may be the 800 metres, with Paul Ereng, the Olympic champion who ran 1:45.4 in the world final on Monday, and two Britons in form, Tom McKean and David Sharpe, who is proving more consistent than ever with four wins in the last five races, one minus 35.46 seconds.

THE world championship in Geneva in six weeks, already scheduled for record size and

duration, have attracted a fascinating last-minute entry. The Soviet Union have applied to join the World Bridge Federation, and anticipate approval have entered competitors.

With 85 countries joined to the world federation, it is one of the most global of games, but, until the post-war period, frowned on by the Soviets as a bourgeois remnant. The Soviets may, in time, challenge America's strong position, although bridge of the 1980s is different and is expected to tell at this level, where a full understanding of the latest developments in bidding is essential. However, bridge is a process of learning, and this has been closely studied by the Soviets, who have also sent observers to western events.

The Soviet Union contested the European junior championships just ended in Neumun-

ster, finishing eleventh in the 22-nation field, one place behind Britain, who lost ground

after early prominence. Britain failed to qualify to defend the world junior team championship that it won last year. European representatives will be Norway, Israel and Denmark.

Richard Fleet, of London, followed his Crockettford Cup victory with a 1000-yard dash week ago by winning the main event in the British Bridge 'Union's annual congress at the Peabody House. His team spearheaded a successful raid by southerners.

RESULTS: Congress team championships: 1, R. Fleet, M. Van Beeston, S. Barnfield and J. Droney (London); 2, D. (London); 3, Mr. and Mrs. G. Bobby, J. (London); 4, Mr. and Mrs. J. (London); 5, D. (London); 6, D. (London); 7, D. (London); 8, D. (London); 9, D. (London); 10, D. (London); 11, D. (London); 12, D. (London); 13, D. (London); 14, D. (London); 15, D. (London); 16, D. (London); 17, D. (London); 18, D. (London); 19, D. (London); 20, D. (London); 21, D. (London); 22, D. (London); 23, D. (London); 24, D. (London); 25, D. (London); 26, D. (London); 27, D. (London); 28, D. (London); 29, D. (London); 30, D. (London); 31, D. (London); 32, D. (London); 33, D. (London); 34, D. (London); 35, D. (London); 36, D. (London); 37, D. (London); 38, D. (London); 39, D. (London); 40, D. (London); 41, D. (London); 42, D. (London); 43, D. (London); 44, D. (London); 45, D. (London); 46, D. (London); 47, D. (London); 48, D. (London); 49, D. (London); 50, D. (London); 51, D. (London); 52, D. 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England have to shorten their sights as trend towards gratuitous one-day events sucks the game dry of history and occasion

Growing monster is almost out of control

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND last played a one-day international seven weeks ago yet how many, I wonder, can recall even the result (a win by six wickets) save for those who make a living or a passion out of recording trivia. This is the nature of the monster that has grown within world cricket for 20 years and is almost out of control.

Money is the beginning and the end of one-day international cricket. They can have no other cricketer purpose. The players, almost to a man, consider them an intrusive irrelevance, especially as such speed that Waqar Younis has played 23 for Pakistan in the winter of his eighteenth birthday. Ask him if he can remember more than two in any detail and the chances are that his eyes will glaze over.

Spectators enjoy some, though far from all, of these encounters and would be stretched to relate the result of an overs match which had taken place more than two years earlier. In most cases, a month is enough for the memory's automatic refuse-disposal system to do its work, proof enough that the trend towards gratuitous one-day events is sucking the game dry of history and occasion.

Here we go again, with round two of the summer's Texaco Trophy and, it has to be said, at a pretty inconvenient time. England, who have begun to think they might have a Test match team worthy of serious inspection, suddenly have to shorten their sights to a type of the game exclusively designed to make a fast buck.

Pragmatic businessmen would jump to their feet here, asking to what end, money apart, international cricket is ever played. When Test match crowds are declining everywhere in the world except England, one might stumble over an answer. Cricketers know, though, just as a Shakespearean actor will know why he is better qualified for "As You Like It" than "Run For Your Wife".

The modern game responds to economic necessity rather than ideals and, too often, those necessities become greed. Hence the disfiguring of outfields with hideous sponsors' logos. Hence the ridiculous extension of this winter's England tour to take in three one-day games in New Zealand. Hence the new Benson and Hedges Cup contract which, to my mind, is not quite such good news as it might seem.

Very few in the game

believe in the 55 overs competition. It is the one which, logically, must go when, as the huge majority of involved parties agree, the number of one-day events is reduced. Yet the Test and County Cricket Board has pledged its faith until 1995, content to bank the cash because the counties, which are the constituents of the board, are scared to abandon the zonal rounds while there is the lure of a bumper semi-final gate beyond. Never mind the game, only the balance sheet matters.

And that, effectively, is why we are here today. Otherwise, the best weather of the summer would not have been wasted on an entire week without championship cricket and these two Texaco matches, at Headingley today and Trent Bridge on Friday, would be scheduled at the end of the season, where they would not be such a distraction.

England, at least, remains the one country with a sensible restriction on one-day internationals and, as their 13-man party gathered yesterday, Graham Gooch and Micky Stewart were doubtless impressing on the players that the next match is all that matters. "Never look back" is the Stewart motto but, while

this was an undoubted success when a glance over the shoulder revealed only an array of defeat, there might now be something to be gained from reliving England's most recent past.

As the Test revival has taken shape these past few months, one-day performances have declined; every match was lost in the West Indies and the New Zealand mini-series was only drawn.

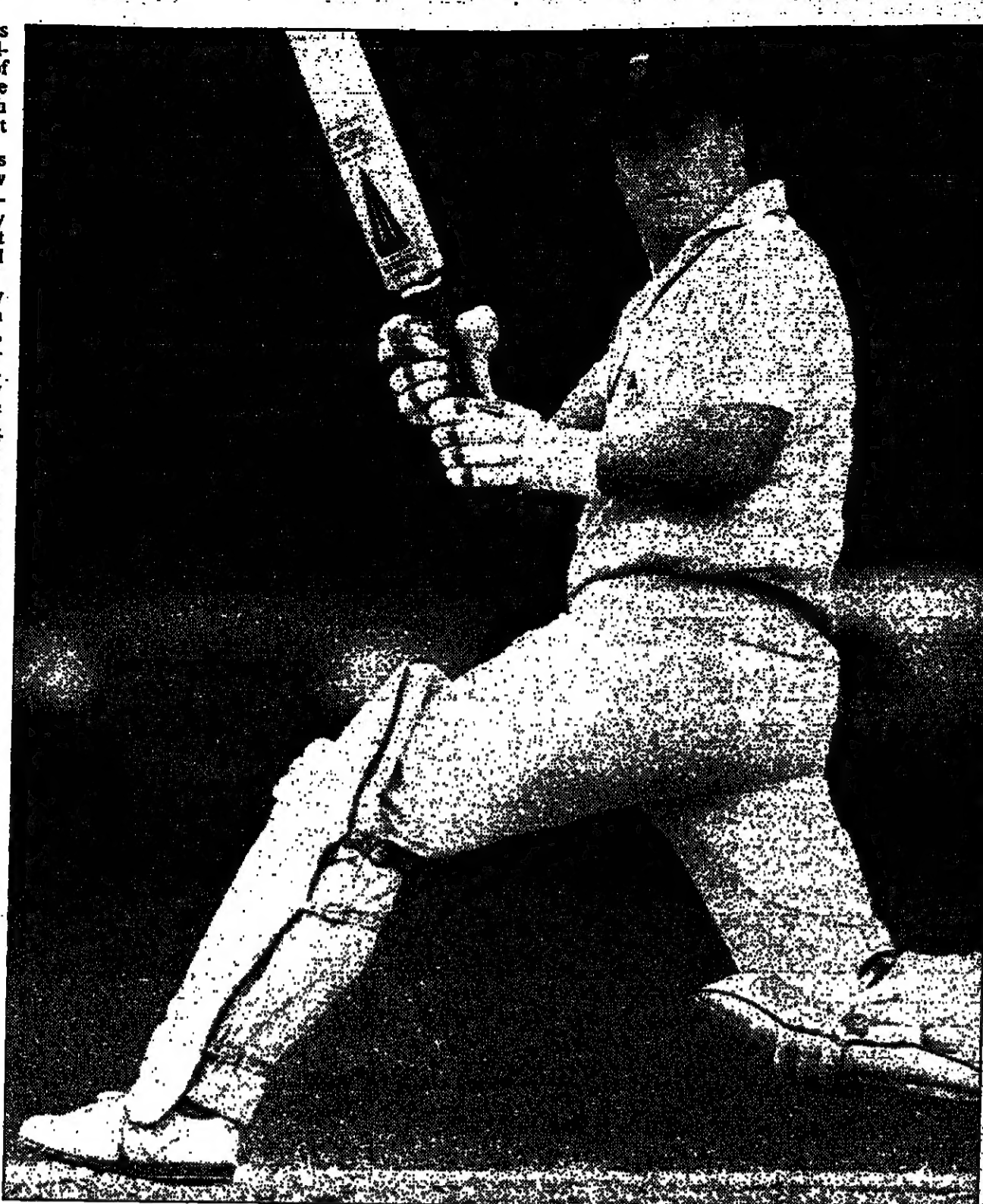
In the game lost to New Zealand, on the same pitch which will be used today, England were guilty of unusually wayward bowling. They must know that any repetition today will be severely punished, for India will have what Stewart himself describes as a "formidable" batting side.

Vengsarkar has a back strain, and is unlikely to feature, but the middle order remains exciting, with the young captain, Azharuddin, a comparative veteran alongside Manjrekar and the teenage tyro, Tendulkar. Much will be heard of all three.

India will need to make plenty of runs to camouflage their bowling deficiencies. Kapil Dev must carry the pace attack, a task of which he no longer seems capable, while the spinners, the experienced Shastri apart, may not find English conditions much to their liking.

One-day cricket, however, thrives on big scores so the crowds at Leeds and Nottingham may well receive full money's worth, especially if David Gower can take graceful advantage of the latest, perhaps the last chance to prolong his illustrious but turbulent career.

ENGLAND (from G.A. Gooch (captain), M.A. Atherton, D.I. Gower, A.J. Lamb, R.A. Smith, R.C. Topley, C.C. Lewis, P.A. DeFreitas, E.E. Hemmings, A.R.C. Fraser, D.E. Malcolm, G.C. Small, J.E. Morris, A.J. Stewart).



Striding out: John Morris, of Derbyshire, who was called into the England party yesterday for the injured Alec Stewart

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL CAREER RECORDS

England batting and fielding									
M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Cts	
P.A. DeFreitas	34	14	343	33	17.15	—	12	—	
A.R.C. Fraser	11	1	5	5	5.00	—	—	—	
G.A. Gooch	83	81	5,323	148	42.80	8	19	30	
D.I. Gower	107	104	8,306	159	31.51	7	11	41	
E.E. Hemmings	28	26	1,125	71	19.11	—	—	—	
A.J. Lamb	97	93	16,326	113	42.15	4	20	26	
D.E. Malcolm	5	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	
R.C. Topley	15	10	146	47	14.60	—	—	—	
G.C. Small	38	18	88	18	6.87	—	—	—	
R.A. Smith	128	124	4,178	41	17.81	—	—	—	
A.J. Stewart	13	11	194	61	16.40	—	—	—	

India batting and fielding									
M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Cts	
M. Azharuddin	104	94	17,254	109	33.02	2	8	38	
N.D. Hirwani	15	6	3	3	3.00	—	—	—	
Kapil Dev	156	156	20,362	175	13.04	—	—	—	
A.R. Kumble	2	1	0	0	0.00	—	—	—	
S.V. Muralidharan	1	0	0	0	0.00	—	—	—	
K.S. More	42	39	151	35	23.00	—	—	—	
M. Prabhakar	41	28	386	106	19.30	—	—	—	
V.V. Raman	14	14	1	1	0.07	—	—	—	
S.K. Sharma	12	12	4	4	0.33	—	—	—	
J.J. Shastri	12	12	4	4	0.33	—	—	—	
N.S. Shivu	34	31	1,209	108	42.30	—	—	—	
S.R. Tendulkar	5	5	66	38	13.20	—	—	—	
S.B. Vengsarkar	118	118	3,118	118	26.43	—	—	—	
A.S. Wason	4	4	32	16	16.00	—	—	—	

England bowling									
M	I	NO	Runs	W	Ave	50	100	50	R/O
P.A. DeFreitas	2816	1824	59,391	435	33.51	—	—	—	—
A.R.C. Fraser	580	382	9,424	225	25.55	—	—	—	—
G.A. Gooch	158	120	3,360	319	10.50	—	—	—	—
D.I. Gower	5	4	14	0	—	—	—	—	—
E.E. Hemmings	1332	856	30,316	452	4.30	—	—	—	—
A.J. Lamb	204	170	9,340	354	26.37	—	—	—	—
G.C. Small	165	142	2,520	219	11.48	—	—	—	—
D.E. Malcolm	2135	1455	44,330	431	1.72	—	—	—	—

India bowling									
M	I	NO	Runs	W	Ave	50	100	50	R/O
M. Azharuddin	540	488	12,380	319	38.84	—	—	—	—
N.D. Hirwani	597	20	2,200	443	4.93	—	—	—	—
Kapil Dev	7025	4682	181,200	1,433	3.75	—	—	—	—
A.R. Kumble	120	75	2,370	133	4.19	—	—	—	—
S.V. Muralidharan	1084	1063	30,357	419	3.94	—	—	—	—
K.S. More	54	38	0	0	—	—	—	—	—
M. Prabhakar	128	145	2,720	123	6.90	—	—	—	—
V.V. Raman	853	708	112,351	438	4.86	—	—	—	—
S.K. Sharma	5624	3533	112,351	438	4.86	—	—	—	—
J.J. Shastri	155	10	27,200	345	4.00	—	—	—	—
S.B. Vengsarkar	105	10	27,200	345	4.00	—	—	—	—
A.S. Wason	105	10	27,200	345	4.00	—	—	—	—

Outlying centres pitch in to put charm in competition

By MARCUS WILLIAMS

THE travelling circus that is mid-summer tour in cricket today with five of the seven Britannic Assurance championship matches being played away from the main playing centres.

The marquee, temporary seating and refreshment tents will have been installed at Colchester, Portsmouth, Uxbridge, Guildford and, for the first time for a county match since 1919, the Coventry and North Warwickshire club.

In the next few weeks the fixture lists will feature the Cheltenham, Weston-super-Mare, Southend and Eastbourne festivals, not to mention other outposts at Aberystwyth, Southampton, Arundel, Kidderminster and Wokingham. In the event of an exclusive four-day championship such venues, which provide much of the charm of the county game, are likely to be forced out.

The latest round of matches follows the customary hiatus caused by the second round of the NatWest Trophy and final of the Benson and Hedges Cup. Middlesex, the championship leaders, have been the least active in promoting youth players, which provide much of the charm of the county game, are likely to be forced out.

De Silva will lead tour

COLOMBO (AFP) — Aravinda de Silva has been appointed captain of the Sri Lanka team to tour England in August and September. De Silva, aged 26, and the vice-captain, Mahanama, are the only members of the party named so far for the four-week tour. The rest of the party will be announced shortly.

An official of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka said that the appointment of de Silva, a veteran of 20 Tests and 70 one-day internationals, to the captaincy is part of an ongoing plan to promote young players with potential to lead the country. The selectors have omitted the national captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, from the tour.

Britannic Assurance championship table

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Cts
Middlesex (2)	10	5	0	530	24	134	—	—	—
Warwickshire (7)	12	4	0	524	25	122	—	—	—
Derbyshire (7)	12	4	0	524	25	122	—	—	—
Leicestershire (11)	11	4	0	629	27	120	—	—	—
Gloucestershire (17)	13	3	0	624	25	106	—	—	—
Leicestershire (13)	12	3	0	735	23	105	—	—	—
Hampshire (8)	10	3	0	632	16	99	—	—	—
Northants (8)	11	2	0	629	31	92	—	—	—
Yorkshire (14)	12	2	0	632	25	106	—	—	—
Somerset (14)	12	2	0	632	25	106	—	—	—
Kent (15)	10	2	0	629	15	75	—	—	—
Gloucestershire (14)	12	2	0	632	25	106	—	—	—
Essex (2)	10	2	0	630	10	72	—	—	—
Surrey (10)	10	1	0	622	20	58	—	—	—
Worcestershire (14)	12	2	0	632	25	106	—	—	—

Survey averaged runs for batting team in a drawn match in which scores finished level.

(1989 positions in brackets)

and two losses) in the past fortnight. During this time they have had their lead cut to 12 points as well as being topped from their Sunday perch to top of the Refuge Assurance League after comprehensive defeats by Somerset and Surrey.

Whether or not the break has refreshed Middlesex should emerge against a revitalised Yorkshire at the Uxbridge ground, where the pitches invariably produce good cricket. Yorkshire have won seven of their last 10 games in all competitions, but Jarvis and Sidebottom will be missing.

Surrey, another team whose fortunes have turned recently, have recalled Kendrick and Robinson to their 12 against Somerset, winners of only two of their last 17 games. Donelan, the young off spinner, is Sussex's 12th man after taking 15 wickets in a second XI match last week.

With Gower and Robin Smith playing for England, Hampshire shuffle their batting against Nottinghamshire at the United Services ground. Middleton replaces Smith and either Scott or Wood will take over from Gower. Ayling, who was born in Portsmouth, is set to play his first championship match for Hampshire, who are in Nottinghamshire's net, by injury, recall Shore, beat by injuries, recall Pollard to open the innings with Broad.

Radford is due to make his first championship appearance in seven weeks for Gloucestershire, who will be led by Neale, recovered from the thigh injury he sustained in the Benson and Hedges final. Botham's knee problems rule him out of this encounter with his old county, Somerset.

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Chiappucci throws down gauntlet to world champion to retain Tour de France yellow jersey

LeMond does 'biggest part of job'

From JOHN WILCOCKSON in LUZ-ARDEEN

A STRONG, confident Greg LeMond came within one stitch of sewing up his third Tour de France yesterday. But the man who forced the American to play his strongest card yet in a breathtaking stage through the Pyrenees was not Pedro Delgado or Erik Breukink, as expected, but the underrated Claudio Chiappucci, who saved his yellow jersey by five seconds with the bravest performance of his career.

The battle between LeMond and Chiappucci overshadowed a well-merited stage victory by Delgado's leading team-mate, Miguel Indurain, of Spain, who followed LeMond all the way up the final, giant climb to Luz-Ardeiden, before jumping past the American 300 yards from the line.

Chiappucci, who started the day with a lead of almost two minutes on Breukink, and two minutes and 24 seconds on LeMond, decided that attack was his best form of defence. The Italian, aged 27, knew that if he stayed back with LeMond that he would almost certainly be left behind on the day's toughest climb, the Tourmalet.

Instead, Chiappucci surprised everyone by making an attack at the foot of the first, and easiest ascent, the Aspin, 47 miles from the finish.

Nine others joined the man in the yellow jersey, and by the Aspin summit, these men had 34 seconds lead on the LeMond group. After eight miles of descending, with Chiappucci setting the pace, they had pulled two minutes ahead.

Three miles from the summit of the Tourmalet the gap grew to two minutes and 10 seconds. Many a Tour de France has been won or lost on this mighty mountain pass, but it was then, with 24 miles left, that LeMond decided to take the race in his own hands. He said later: "I was expecting an attack by Delgado, but when I saw that no one was

going to chase Chiappucci, I didn't think about anything except trying to win the tour."

LeMond attacked once, twice before joining ahead with Indurain and Delgado. By the 7,000-foot Tourmalet summit, where huge crowds had been gathering since early in the day, LeMond had closed to within 68 seconds of Chiappucci, and had opened up the 50-second lead on Breukink. LeMond kept up the pressure throughout the spectacular, 12-mile plunge into the distant valley, to rejoice Chiappucci's group of five, just as the final climb to Luz-Ardeiden began.

If he had not made his unexpected move, Chiappucci would have most likely been back with Breukink at this point, one minute and 20 seconds in arrears. But showing tremendous tenacity, the Italian was now riding alongside LeMond, the world champion, with only six miles of the 133-mile stage remaining.

Complimenting Chiappucci afterwards, LeMond said: "He was very strong when we caught him. But when he went to the front, I knew that he was trying to fake me out, trying to make me think he was a lot stronger."

However, LeMond did not wait much longer to ascertain his rivals' strengths. With about four miles and 2,000 feet of climbing still remaining, the American unleashed a devastating turn of speed to which only Indurain and his fellow Spaniard, Marino Lejarreta, could respond. By the top, Delgado had conceded one minute 31 seconds, Chiappucci two minutes 19 seconds and Breukink four minutes 16 seconds to LeMond.

Asked if he thought he had won the tour with this attack, the defending champion stated: "The tour's not over until we reach the Champs-Élysées on Sunday, but I did the biggest part of the job today."



Three's a crowd: LeMond, right, climbs the Tourmalet in company with Indurain and Delgado, left

Dawes shows grit in recovery

By PETER BRYAN

SALLY Dawes, Britain's brightest hope in women's cycling, was trying to overcome her disappointment yesterday after failing to reach the semi-finals of the world junior pursuit championship at Middleborough.

She did it in the only way she knows — by training hard for her second title challenge tomorrow in the points event.

"I had a little cry last night at the disappointment of missing a medal chance by only 0.2 seconds. It was that close in my ride against Natasha den Ouden of The Netherlands," she said.

A sleepless night followed with Dawes, aged 17, from Arnold, Nottinghamshire, wondering what she had done wrong. In fact, there was nothing wrong with her ride, although head-wind finish probably blunted her speed at the end.

The need to peak four times in 12 months — in the 1989 National Track championships, where Dawes won the pursuit bronze, this year's Commonwealth Games, the present world series and the National championships at Leicester, which open on July 27 — might have contributed.

Dawes thought that it had been a demanding time. She returned from Auckland with legs that felt dead, later to discover that she had a virus with symptoms similar to glandular fever. It took a few weeks to get over but then the form started to return.

"Perhaps," she reflected, "if I hadn't gone to the Games and hadn't been ill I would have done better in the pursuit. But that's in the past now."

Her world championship programme ends on Sunday with the road race, in which she has a sporting chance unless it ends in a mass finish. "I haven't much of a sprint," she said.

After the British track titles she will have a serious stab at the time-trial best all-arounder competition, decided by the fastest average speed achieved in two ten-mile and two 25-mile events.

Dawes is young enough to qualify as a junior again next year so it will then be back to the world pursuing treadmill.

The bright spot of Monday's programme was the ride of Stephen Clark in his last-chance reprieve to reach the quarter-finals. He appeared beaten but came from behind in the home straight to win the four-event and join the last 16.

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The bright spot of Monday's programme was the ride of Stephen Clark in his last-chance reprieve to reach the quarter-finals. He appeared beaten but came from behind in the home straight to win the four-event and join the last 16.

TOUR RESULTS

SIXTEENTH STAGE (Bagnac to Luz-Ardeiden, 134 miles): 1, M. LeMond (USA), 5:28:45; 2, M. Indurain (ESP), 5:30:15; 3, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:31:45; 4, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:33:15; 5, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:34:45; 6, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:36:15; 7, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:37:45; 8, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:39:15; 9, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:40:45; 10, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:42:15; 11, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:43:45; 12, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:45:15; 13, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:46:45; 14, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:48:15; 15, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:49:45; 16, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:51:15; 17, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:52:45; 18, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:54:15; 19, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:55:45; 20, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:57:15; 21, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:58:45; 22, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 5:59:15; 23, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 6:00:45; 24, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 6:02:15; 25, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 6:03:45; 26, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 6:05:15; 27, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 6:06:45; 28, M. Lejarreta (ESP), 6:08:15; 29, M. 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SPORT

Norman acquires resilience and waits for luck



Sea worshiper: Trevino rejoices during practice at St Andrews yesterday. More serious matters commence for the American on the first tee at 9.45am tomorrow

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

GREG Norman is determined to demonstrate in the 119th Open Championship starting at St Andrews tomorrow that a succession of disappointments has failed to dampen his spirits.

Norman, of course, won the Open at Turnberry in 1986 but he has come so tantalisingly close in several other major championships that he is entitled to feel aggrieved.

Yet the Australian, aged 35, seems to have come to terms with being the victim of outrageous eighteenth-hole shots by his opponents. "The setbacks have made me more resilient and I feel I am a better golfer for them," Norman said. "When certain things happen on a golf course you just have to put them down to destiny."

"I'm philosophical about it. Destiny has been looking after me for a long time. I'm sure there are a lot of guys around who would have loved to have been in the positions I have been, even to get beaten."

"I feel very good. My game is good. I've been working on being more consistent this year and I have high hopes for myself this week. Your desire to do whatever you want to do in the game tells you what direction to go in. I'm not planning to retire until at least the year 2000, so I've got a minimum of 37 more majors to go even after this week."

"I think this will be a very open Open unless the wind blows. But it

is the one you want to win, especially at St Andrews. It is the major of the majors. Out there on these links you've got to paint your picture before you execute the shot."

"From the eleventh hole through to the seventeenth is probably the toughest stretch of golf in the world. The sun is starting to bake it out, the greens are getting quicker and the golf course is in the best condition I've ever seen it."

Nick Faldo agreed with Norman on the condition of the Old Course and he forecast that the winner would probably need to match the 12-under-par winning score of Severiano Ballesteros at St Andrews in 1984.

"It might be green out there but it is not going to be receptive by the time we start," Faldo said. "It's back to being pretty firm now. It will be down to how the Royal and Ancient want the course to play, but if they want they could make it very tough."

"I'm excited and I want to get started. I go at the majors as hard as I can. That is what I channel all my thoughts on. I've had two good majors this season. I won the Masters and although the US Open got away from me I was pleased afterwards to know that I was in there with a chance. The key to winning them is to get into contention."

Open preview, page 38

Morris finally given call to join England party

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Morris's international career was launched yesterday, belatedly and accidentally. Derbyshire's frustrated batsman was summoned at lunchtime to join the England party preparing at Headingley for the Texaco Trophy match with India today, because Alec Stewart had aggravated a back injury.

It is an ironic and rather unsatisfactory way for the deserving Morris to receive recognition, but many an England career owes much to someone else's misfortune. Stewart, who hurt his back on Sunday, but initially thought he was not in doubt, was arguably lucky to have remained in the party ahead of Morris anyway, having scored only two half-centuries in a generous run of seven Tests and 13 one-day games.

Stewart was last night described by the team manager, his father Micky, as "99 per cent sure" to miss the match today, but he still hoped to be available for the second game, at Trent Bridge on Friday.

Morris had been alerted to the possibility of a call-up during his county's game with the Indians at Chesterfield on

Monday. Micky Stewart, having confirmed the arrangement, explained: "He has shown consistently good form. The way he has put his game together is what we hoped would happen a couple of years ago."

It seems unlikely that Morris will make the final XI today, but he will be compensated by the knowledge that he does at last feature in England's plans when many suspected his once-career image was counting against him. Aged 26, he still evidently has time on his side, judging by the manager's comments on David Gower's return to the team at the age of 33.

Gower will bat at No. 3 today, and again in the first Test at Lord's next week, and Stewart said: "He could easily have his best batting years in front of him. English batsmen are usually at their peak from 31 up to 38."

"David prefers Test cricket, like most players, but if you have been through what he went through last year, this is a great examination. Test, you have to keep your desire going, and if we felt David's was in any serious doubt, he

would not be here now." Gower himself was in no doubt at all over what is required. "They can't keep recalling me," he admitted. "I know I have to make every opportunity count."

England are likely to go in with five batsmen and five specialist bowlers. Morris and Gladstone Small being the men omitted. India, who have an injury problem concerning Dilip Vengsarkar, will probably include at least two spin bowlers, as is now their custom in one-day cricket, and will give a big match crowd in England a first view of their 17-year-old batting prodigy, Sachin Tendulkar.

But, with the three-Test series to come, this is very much a preliminary joust for the two teams, and it could be said there is more at stake for the Yorkshire club, whose right to stage international cricket is increasingly being questioned.

A series of poor pitches has already cost Headingley its automatic Test match, and it is not hosting any of this summer's six games. By compensation, Yorkshire were awarded two Texaco Trophy matches, but now

their problem has switched from the pitch to the crowd, or rather the lack of it.

Only £170,000 was taken when New Zealand played here in May and the ground was depressingly half-empty for the season's first international fixture. If there are many empty seats today, for a game which other grounds could easily sell out, Yorkshire will be under renewed pressure to explain why its public appears indifferent to international cricket.

● Morris expressed a mixture of relief and delight at his England call (the Press Association reports). "The disappointment of not being selected recently was quite severe, but I got over that and got stuck into playing the way I had been," he said. "This is wonderful news."

Morris, who played for Derbyshire against the Indians, also had high praise for Tendulkar's innings of 105 not out in that game: "It was one of the finest knocks I have ever seen from a 17-year-old. It was like the reincarnation of Gavaskar."

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Profit at Goodwill Games is unlikely

SEATTLE (AFP) — The second Goodwill Games, which start here on Friday, are likely to prove a spectacular financial flop despite frantic last-minute efforts to sell tickets and attract media attention.

Although the Games can boast the presence of many of the world's leading athletes, organisers have not sold all of the 1.1 million tickets necessary just to break even.

TBS, the cable television network that will broadcast the Games, is expecting to have to stand a loss of about \$8 million, although that figure is still an improvement on the inaugural Games in Moscow in 1986.

The original purpose of the Games — to promote friendly competition between East and West — has been overtaken by events and seems somewhat outdated and unnecessary after the collapse of successive regimes in eastern Europe.

In addition, for the second time, the Games follow in the wake of the World Cup football finals, the world's biggest single-sport event.

Putting aside the economics and politics, the Goodwill Games promise to provide compelling competition in 21 different events over 17 days.

"I would say, next to the best field that has ever been assembled in multi-sport competition," Jim Sheldon, vice-president of the Goodwill Games, said.

Swimming and track and field will dominate the first week, along with men's basketball, baseball and gymnastics in a new all-finals format.

Matt Biondi, the 1988 Olympic champion, will try to reclaim the world record in the 50 metres freestyle from Tom Jager, who timed 21.8sec in Nashville, Tennessee, last March.

Sergei Bubka, the Soviet pole vaulter who is the Olympic champion and world record-holder, will not compete in the Games because of a back ailment, officials have said.

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Jordan's refusal forces Villa to resume search

By CHRIS MOORE

JOE Jordan, the Bristol City manager, yesterday dashed Aston Villa's hopes of appointing an immediate replacement for Graham Taylor by turning down the chance of taking over from the new England manager at Villa Park.

Jordan, the former Manchester United and Scottish international forward, revealed he had first discussed the job with Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, while on holiday in Italy during the World Cup finals. But he ruled himself out of the reckoning by confirming he was to accept a new three-year contract at Ashton Gate.

"I had a long discussion with Mr Ellis and his son, in Rome, where we spent a very enjoyable day together," Jordan said. He revealed that the meeting took place in the full knowledge and with the backing of the Bristol City board of directors.

"When I arrived back home on Monday night, Mr Ellis informed me I was the favourite for the job. He asked me if I would talk the matter over further with another of his directors."

"I was very impressed with everything about Villa and what they have to offer after finishing runners-up in the first division last season and now with a place in Europe ahead of them."

"But subject to certain conditions, I had agreed a new three-year contract with the Bristol City directors before I went away, and had promised to clarify my position as soon as I returned."

"I have worked hard and made progress with the club for the last three years and I wanted to be able to continue going in the same direction. Having started the job here I want to see it through, which is the reason I turned Villa down. It has nothing to do with them. It was done for Bristol City."

"I obviously gave the situation a great deal of thought. Actually it ruined my holiday having it on my mind all the time. It's not the sort of opportunity that crops up every day. But I had given my word to Bristol City and I always try to keep promises."

"I am a very ambitious person and I want to manage the biggest club possible. But at

the moment my ambition is for that big club to be Bristol City. Villa are the sort of club we are striving to become. But there are no short cuts and I realise it will take time."

Jordan's withdrawal as the only leading candidate not actually under contract, has thrown the race to succeed Taylor wide open again, and leaves Ellis with little prospect now of being able to make a prompt appointment.

"The situation remains that we want the best manager we can possibly appoint," Ellis said last night. "We have no interviews arranged but are hoping to be given permission on Thursday to talk to one of the candidates we have in mind."

"We have a procedure to go through and there are three directors involved in conducting the negotiations."

It is looking increasingly likely, however, that Taylor's departure could well signal the start of a bitter struggle for his successor. Arthur Cox, who signed a four-year contract with Derby County last season, and David Pleat, of Leicester City, were thought to be next in line after Jordan.

Brennan for Maine Road

By IAN ROSS

MANCHESTER City's rebuilding programme continued yesterday when Mark Brennan, the Middlesbrough midfielder, agreed to join the club in a £500,000 deal.

Brennan, a former England under-21 international, becomes the ninth player to sign for City since Howard Kendall succeeded Mel Machin as the manager at Maine Road in December of last year.

Kendall has now spent in excess of £4million on new talent but that figure is offset by the £3million he has collected following the departure of ten players since the turn of the year.

Only last week, City paid Watford £1million for goalkeeper Tony Cotton and sold Andy Hinchcliffe to Everton in a £900,000 package deal which saw Neil Pointon move from Goodison Park to Maine Road.

Kendall admitted that he

had been monitoring Brennan's progress for more than eight years and that he attempted to sign him in 1982 when he was manager of Blackburn Rovers.

"I have long admired his style of play and I am confident that he will prove to be a most valuable addition to my senior squad," he said.

Brennan, aged 24, made more than 200 appearances for Ipswich Town before joining Middlesbrough for £375,000 in 1988.

Leeds United were told yesterday that they must pay Leicester City £1million for mid-field player Gary McAllister. A Football League tribunal made this decision after both clubs had failed to agree on a fee after the transfer had taken place in June. The tribunal also ruled that Keith Dublin's value to Watford, after signing from Brighton

was £275,000.

● Sunderland have signed Peter Davenport from Middlesbrough for about £300,000.

● The future of the fourth division club, Scarborough, is threatened after yesterday's decision by planners to refuse permission for a supermarket to be built on the club's Seamer Road ground to finance its £4 million new stadium.

● The Football Association has refused Everton permission to take part in next month's Feyenoord tournament in Rotterdam. "We have been told that we cannot take part because of the existing ban on pre-season visits to the Low Countries and Spanish holiday resorts even though UEFA has now allowed English clubs back into Europe," Jim Greenwood, the chief executive of Everton, said.

LeMond poised to take third title

LUZ-ARDIDEN (Reuters) — Greg LeMond has yet to win a stage in this year's Tour de France or wear the race leader's yellow jersey. But no one seriously doubts that the American master tactician will take his third title when the world's greatest cycle race ends in Paris on Sunday.

The Californian was in the perfect position, just five seconds behind Claudio Chiappucci, of Italy, the surprise leader, after a virtuoso performance on the tough 16th stage in the Pyrenees yesterday. Virtually destroying his main rivals Pedro Delgado, of Spain, and Eric Breukink, of the Netherlands, LeMond had only one real problem — with the remarkably resilient Italian, who pluckily resisted the American's assault.

"He was much better than I expected," LeMond confessed afterwards. "Today was his focus, the race of his life. It was all or nothing for him. His tactics were great. I have to congratulate him. He's a really good rider."

Chiappucci had been stung by LeMond's remarks that his days as wearer of the yellow jersey were numbered. "I wanted to show Greg was wrong," he said. "I knew I could do well and I wanted to show I deserved the yellow jersey. It wasn't just luck."

LeMond, asked how he managed to come back after a virus problem early in the season, said: "It's difficult to get in condition but once I'm there, I don't lose it."

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Opinion divided as Schockemöhle takes the rap

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE issue of rapping, which on Monday brought about the spectacular end of Paul Schockemöhle's equestrian career and which is likely to permeate the World Equestrian Games in Stockholm next week, is as complex as it is controversial.

The practice, which is banned under the rules of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) but allowed under national rules in the United States, involves hitting a horse on the legs with a pole to make it jump higher. It is a practice which has been in use ever since horses started to jump competitively.

In the wrong hands, rapping is cruel and it can harm a horse physically and mentally. But there are trainers who claim that, in the hands of an expert, a light bamboo pole applied at the appropriate moment can help sharpen up a horse to produce his best form for a competition.

States, the winner of the individual silver medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and a respected trainer, is unequivocal in his support for the practice of using a light bamboo pole to rap a horse.

Writing in the current issue of *L'Année Hippique*, the equestrian yearbook, Homfeld said: "Since the rule in place is virtually impossible to enforce, allowing the practice of using the bamboo seems a much more honest and humane approach when compared to the alternative of sneaking around in the middle of the night so you can rap your horse with a jump pole or building enormous jumps and intentionally under-riding or over-riding them so the horse crashes into the rails..."

In Europe, where there is a heightened sense of animal welfare, the idea is anathema to the general public, as Schockemöhle has found to his cost. David Broome, the president of the International Riders' Club, said there would be "a

public outcry" if the practice was ever to be officially condoned. Asked how widespread he thought it was, he replied: "You don't see it."

This is largely due to the measures taken by the FEI under the presidency of the Princess Royal, Stricter stable security, increased patrolling of the practice areas at international shows and the threat of long suspensions have virtually stopped the attempts to sneak around in the middle of the night. Max Amman, of the FEI, can not recall a rider being found guilty of rapping a horse at an international show in the last five years.

The extent of rapping in private yards, which are outside the jurisdiction of the FEI, can never be fully known, at least not without the help of secretly made video tapes like the one which brought about the downfall of Schockemöhle. The Princess Royal, in an article on the subject six months ago, said: "The evidence would suggest that only a relatively

small number of horses are being deliberately mistreated."

That is also the view of Volvo, the sport's largest sponsor, which puts about £2 million into equestrianism annually. There had been fears that the company, which is the main sponsor of the World Equestrian Games, might withdraw its support in the wake of the Schockemöhle allegations.

Speaking yesterday from Stockholm, Ulf Bergqvist, the director of equestrian sports for Volvo, said: "We have been in the sport a very long time and know that it is basically sound and that 99 per cent of people in the sport take good care of their horses. We have been following the Schockemöhle case carefully and we feel that the West German federation and the FEI have the situation well under control."

Allegations of rapping will no doubt occur again, but the strength and fury of public opinion which

greeted the latest revelations will play a part in deterring such abuses.

The main weapon against rapping, however, is the performance of the horse. Rapping can only improve a performance in the short term. The more that riders witness horses such as Henderson Milton achieving his noble feats without recourse to such devices, the less need there will be to resort to such methods.

In a discussion on the subject in the magazine, *Horse and Hound*, last year, a top international rider said: "I'm no supporter of the method of taking a bar in your hand and hitting the horse with it on the legs. In the long term you would not be successful that way, either, because horses are not that stupid. If I do it a second or third time, they won't go where there's a man standing next to the jump raising the bar." The speaker was Paul Schockemöhle.